



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

A 52 PAGE MAGAZINE

NO. 3
DEC.
JAN.

Lovelorn

STIRRING STORIES of REAL ROMANCE

10¢

OHH, BUT WE---WE'RE *ENGAGED*!
HE MUST THINK I'M TOO MUCH OF
A *TOMBOY*---I'M NOT FEMININE
ENOUGH FOR HIM! I--I THOUGHT
I LOVED HIM--- BUT NOW I
KNOW I *HATE* HIM!

AMERICAN
COMICS GROUP
ACG

WHAT DOES A
GIRL DO WHEN
THE MAN SHE
ONCE LOVED
BECOMES HER
MOST HATED
ENEMY? IS THE
ANSWER--
'LOVE THY ENEMY?'
READ IT
IN THIS ISSUE!

Who's number one IN THE LAUGH LINEUP?



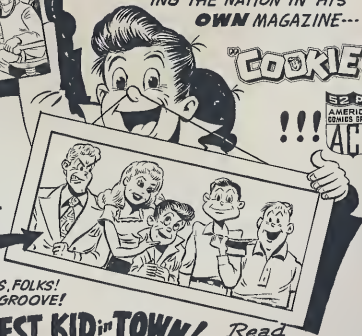
WHY, **COOKIE**™ OF COURSE!

COOKIE'S THE LAFF-LAD THE WHOLE WORLD LOVES! **COOKIE'S** THE HOTTEST, MOST HILARIOUS HEPCAT IN HISTORY... A RAPID-FIRE ROMEO AND A REGULAR GUY! AND NOW HE'S SWEEPING THE NATION IN HIS OWN MAGAZINE...



HERE'S THE MAGAZINE--

-- AND HERE'S WHO'S IN IT!



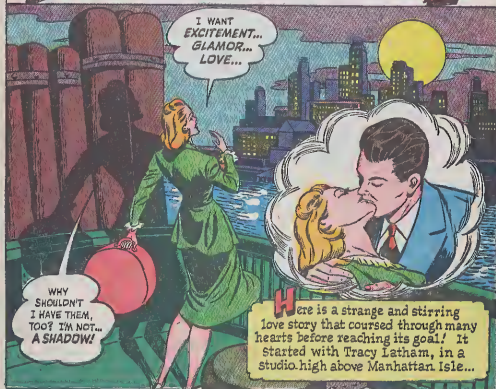
IT'S ALL YOURS, FOLKS!
SO GET IN THE GROOVE!

Meet... **THE FUNNIEST KID IN TOWN!** Read

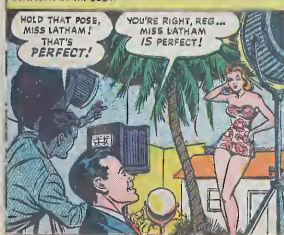
10¢ AT ALL STANDS

COOKIE™

TWO LOVES *have* I



"I ALWAYS KNEW I WAS BEAUTIFUL! EVERY MAGAZINE IN THE COUNTRY CARRIED MY PICTURE... EVERY AGENCY WAS BIDDING FOR MY SIGNATURE... AND I GLOWED IN THE GLAMOR AND FLATTERY OF MY JOB!"



"THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD SEEN CHAN BOWEN, THOUGH HE OWNED THE COMPANY I WAS MODELLING FOR! I COULD TELL I HAD IMPRESSED HIM... DEEPLY... AND ALREADY I WAS MAKING PLANS..."



"IT WAS RISKY, BUT I WAS READY TO CHANCE IT! A GIRL'S SMARTER TO HAVE TWO STRINGS TO HER BOW... AND I COULD ALWAYS PULL THE WOOL OVER ROGER'S EYES!"

I'M HAVING SOME FRIENDS OVER TONIGHT... NOTHING ELABORATE! HOW ABOUT JOINING US?

PUT ANOTHER SETTING ON, BEAUTIFUL... I'LL BE THERE!



"I WALKED HOME ON AIR! WHY NOT? I WAS GETTING EVERYTHING I WANTED, AND I WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE NATURE'S GIFTS PAY OFF! I FELT LIKE A PRINCESS IN FAIRYLAND..."

CHAM BOWEN... NOT A BAD CATCH FOR A SMART GIRL... AND WHAT'S MORE, I THINK I CAN DO IT!



"MY MOOD CHANGED AS I TURNED THE KEY IN MY DOOR! ALL MY EXHILARATION VANISHED AS I ENTERED THE HOUSE! FERN WAS MY SISTER, BUT THAT DIDN'T MAKE HER ANY EASIER TO TAKE!"

IT'S TRACY FERN... I'M HOME FROM WORK! WHERE ARE YOU?

I'M IN THE KITCHEN!



"THE INSTANT I WALKED INTO THE KITCHEN, MY SPIRITS SANK TO ROCK-BOTTOM! FERN WAS HER USUAL CARE-WORN SELF, A DEPRESSING NOTE IN A GLITTERING DAY! SHE GREETED ME WITH A LONG LIST OF WOES..."

--AND TO TOP IT ALL, TRACY, THE CAKE BURNED WHILE I WAS TOSsing THE SALAD!

SO THAT'S YOUR IDEA OF BIG NEWS! SENSATIONAL!



"FERN WAS ANXIOUS TO PLEASE ME! WHY SHOULDN'T SHE BE? I PAID ALL THE BILLS, GAVE HER A HOME AND CLOTHES! SHE LIKED TO PUTTER AROUND THE HOUSE ANYWAY..."

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE CAKE, TRACY, BUT...

BEING SORRY WON'T HELP! GET ON THE PHONE AND ORDER SOME COOKIES FROM THE PASTRY SHOP!



"BUT WHEN EVENING CAME, SHE HAD THE APARTMENT IN APPLE-PIE ORDER! MY GUESTS WERE HAVING A FINE TIME WHILE I SEE-SAWED BETWEEN CHAM BOWEN AND ROGER DRAKE! IT WAS TRICKY... BUT WORTH IT!"

OH, DON'T BE SILLY ROGER! MR. BOWEN SPONSORS THE ADS I'M POSING FOR!

OH, IF HE'S A BUSINESS CONTACT, I DON'T MIND AT ALL!



"FERN WAS BUSY CIRCULATING A TRAY OF DRINKS! SHE WAS SUCH A DULL LITTLE BODY, I NEVER BOTHERED INTRODUCING HER TO MY FRIENDS! THEY'D ONLY BE ANNOYED AND BORED! SUDDENLY..."

THAT WAS CLUMSY! CAN'T YOU SERVE PROPERLY, YOUNG LADY?

COME, COME, ORAKE, THE GIRL'S PROBABLY TIRED! DON'T BE HARSH WITH HER!

"I SAW FERN TURN RED AS THE TEARS SPRANG TO HER EYES, BUT I WAS TOO BUSY PACIFYING ROGER TO PAY ATTENTION TO MY SISTER! SHE STARTED TO SAY SOMETHING, BUT HER VOICE BROKE AND..."

OH, I AM SORRY! I'M AFRAID YOU'VE HURT HER FEELINGS, DRAKE!

SHE'LL GET OVER IT SOON ENOUGH... BESIDES, IT'S NOT REALLY IMPORTANT! SHALL WE REJOIN THE PARTY?

"I HAD NO TIME FOR SISTER FERN AS I SAID GOODNIGHT TO MY GUESTS! FOR I HAD DECIDED ON A DANGEROUS GAME... WITH CHAN BOWEN AS THE PRIZE! AS HE LEFT, I MADE SURE ROGER DRAKE COULDN'T HEAR ME..."

IT'S A DATE, THEN... TOMORROW FOR DINNER!

TOMORROW'S A LONG WAY OFF, TRACY, AND I'M AN IMPATIENT MAN!

"I HAD NO IDEA WHAT FERN WAS UP TO, AND I NEEDED HER NOW THAT THE PARTY WAS OVER! THE LIVING ROOM WAS A SIGHT! I CALLED HER... 'FERN! FERN!...'"

FERN... WHERE ARE YOU?

WHO WOULD SUSPECT IT? THE GLAMOROUS TRACY LATNAM AND THE LITTLE DRUDGE FERN... TWINS!

"I WATCHED HER AS SHE STARTED TO TIDY UP, HER COLORLESS FACE, STILL STAINED WITH TEARS... AND I COULD NOT CONCEAL MY RISING IMPATIENCE WITH HER..."

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO BE SO AWKWARD, FERN? YOU KNOW I'M TRYING TO IMPRESS ROGER DRAKE!

WHAT... WHAT ABOUT MR. BOWEN?

OH, CHAN BOWEN! HE'S WHAT I REALLY WANT! BUT I DON'T WANT TO LET GO OF ROGER... UNTIL I MAKE CERTAIN OF CHAN BOWEN!

"ROGER WAS HANDSOME ... BUT CHAN WAS HANDSOMER! ROGER WAS RICH... BUT CHAN WAS RICHER! AND I WAS A GIRL WHO WANTED THE BETTER THINGS IN LIFE! I WENT ON A MAD WHIRL WITH CHAN, BUT I WAS ALWAYS SMART ENOUGH TO STAY AWAY FROM SPOTS WHERE ROGER MIGHT SEE US..."

"WE DINED AT COUNTRY INNS..."

"DANCED IN OUT-OF-THE-WAY CLUBS..."

"AND FINALLY... THE TRACY LATHAM CHARM WORKED!"



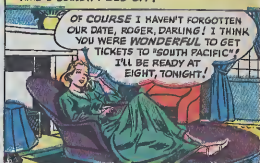
"CHAN BOVEN'S KISS HAD DONE THINGS TO ME! ASIDE FROM PUTTING FLUTTERS IN MY HEARTBEAT, IT ASSURED ME OF TRIUMPH! BUT I WASN'T LETTING ROGER OFF MY STRING... YET!"

"BUT STALLING OFF ROGER WASN'T SO EASY THIS TIME! HE WAS BEGINNING TO GET SUSPICIOUS OF MY CONSTANT EXCUSES, AND THIS WAS ONE TIME I COULDN'T BEG OFF!"



IT'S FOR YOU, TRACY...
ROGER
DRAKE!

WATCH ME STALL
HIM OFF AGAIN...
AND MAKE HIM
LOVE IT!



OF COURSE I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN
OUR DATE, ROGER, DARLING! I THINK
YOU WERE WONDERFUL TO GET
TICKETS TO "SOUTH PACIFIC"! I'
LL BE READY AT
EIGHT, TONIGHT!

"I HAD TO GO WITH ROGER ... WE HAD THIS DATE FOR WEEKS! BUT WHAT ABOUT MY DATE WITH CHAN THAT EVENING! I HATED TO BREAK IT, BUT IT WAS SAFER THAT WAY! BUT WHEN I CALLED TO TELL CHAN I HAD A HEADACHE, HE WAS INSISTENT..."

"MY EXCUSES DIDN'T WORK! CHAN HAD SAID HE WAS COMING OVER... AND I WAS GOING OUT WITH ROGER! MY MIND WAS A TURMOIL OF PANIC AND INDECISION! NOW COULD I TELL THE TRUTH TO ROGER? I'D LOSE HIM! AND I WASN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES WITH CHAN, EITHER! I WAS WILD WITH DESPERATION WHEN I MADE MY DECISION..."

FERN, COME HERE... I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY! TONIGHT, YOU ARE GOING TO BE... ME!

WHAT...
WHAT DO
YOU
MEAN?



BUT CHAN, DEAR, I DON'T
FEEL WELL... YOU'LL HAVE
A MISERABLE TIME
IF YOU SPEND THE
EVENING WITH ME...
YOU MUSTN'T...
REALLY, I WISH
YOU WOULDN'T...



"FERN WAS PAPER-WHITE WHEN I TOLD HER WHAT SHE WOULD HAVE TO DO! BUT I HAD NO TIME TO WASTE ON HER SELFISH FEARS! MY WILL WAS STRONGER THAN HERS! I GOT HER OUT OF THE HOUSE QUICKLY AND..."

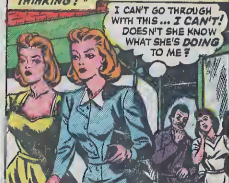
"I COULD FEEL THEIR STARES OF ASTONISHMENT, HEAR THEIR WHISPERED EXCLAMATIONS OF SURPRISE, AS FERN EMERGED FROM THE BEAUTY TREATMENTS! FROM FERN'S GLAZED EXPRESSION, I COULD GATHER NOTHING! WHAT WAS SHE THINKING?"

PLEASE, TRACY!
I'M AFRAID!

DON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS,
ANTOINE... JUST MAKE
HER LOOK LIKE
ME!



I CAN'T GO THROUGH
WITH THIS... I CAN'T!
DOESN'T SHE KNOW
WHAT SHE'S DOING
TO ME?



I'M FERN... THE COLORLESS
TWIN... THE DRUDGE! I CAN'T
FACE MR. BOWEN AS TRACY...
HOW CAN I DECEIVE HIM? HE...
HE WAS KIND TO ME AT THE
PARTY... BUT IF I REFUSE,
TRACY WILL BE ANGRY!

WHAT
SHALL
I DO?



"Yes, Tracy and I were twins... every feature, every measurement identical! But tonight, I felt that my sister was a stranger, a menacing stranger who threatened my peace and tranquility..."

DON'T BE A LITTLE
FOOL, FERN! CHAN WILL
NEVER SUSPECT THE
TRUTH... IF YOU
CAN MANAGE
TO BE AMUSING
AND GAY!

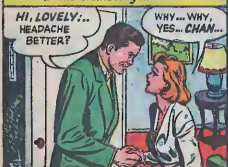


DON'T
MAKE ME
DO THIS,
TRACY...
DON'T!

"She wouldn't listen to my pleas! At eight o'clock, Tracy left with Roger... and I was alone! I dreaded the deceit, the sound of the doorbell! When I opened the door to Chan Bowen, I was trembling..."

HI, LOVELY...
HEADACHE
BETTER?

WHY... WHY,
YES... CHAN...



"Tracy had told me to be gay and amusing! How COULD I be, when I was just a mask... a FRAUD! To my horror, I realized that I couldn't even SPEAK to Mr. Bowen! The evening was turning into a deadly bore for him..."

IF YOUR HEADACHE'S GONE,
TRACY, WHY DON'T WE GO
OUT FOR SOME DINNER
AND A DRIVE? IT
WOULD DO
YOU GOOD!

WE MUSTN'T! I DON'T
DARE LEAVE! WE'LL MEET
PEOPLE... THEY'LL KNOW...
SUPPOSE WE MEET
TRACY AND ROGER...
TRACY WOULD BE
FURIOUS!



"I thought quickly... **DINNER**, that was it! Nervously, I suggested that I whip something together, that we dine at home! I'll never forget Chan's surprise as he followed me into the kitchen..."

"YOU OVERWHELM ME, TRACY! I KNEW YOU WERE HANDY WITH A LIPSTICK BRUSH, BUT THIS CASSEROLE COOKING..."

"OH, I'M PRETTY HANDY... **AROUND THE KITCHEN!**"

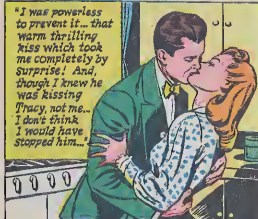


"I managed to forget myself-consciousness as I prepared our dinner! I even joked a little bit as Chan watched me with fascinated eyes! I could feel him standing behind me as I worked blithely away, when suddenly..."

"TRACY! TRACY, DARLING!"



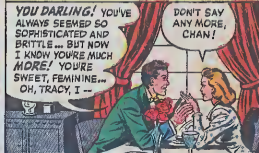
"I was powerless to prevent it... that warm thrilling kiss which took me completely by surprise! And, though I knew he was kissing Tracy, not me... I don't think I would have stopped him..."



"The stars faded from my eyes when I realized what Chan was saying... what he was thinking! I was torn by conflict! The feel of Chan's lips was still with me... but so was the fear of discovery and... **TRACY!**"

"YOU DARLING! YOU'VE ALWAYS SEEMED SO SOPHISTICATED AND BRITTLE... BUT NOW I KNOW YOU'RE MUCH MORE! YOU'RE SWEET, FEMININE... OH, TRACY, I --"

"DON'T SAY ANY MORE, CHAN!"



"I could not let him continue, for each word was like a caress which carried a sting! Suddenly I knew that I had to send him away... before my heart turned traitorous..."

"I'M SORRY, CHAN, BUT IT'S THAT BEASTLY HEAD-ACHE AGAIN! I'LL BE ALL RIGHT AFTER A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!"

"TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, DARLING! I'LL CALL YOU AT THE STUDIO IN THE MORNING!"



"When the door closed after him, I sat like a graven image... waiting... waiting for Tracy to come home! Would she detect anything? What would I say to her? It was almost two in the morning when..."

"I COULDN'T WAIT TO GET RID OF ROGER! TELL ME... HOW DID IT GO?"

"YOU NEEDN'T WORRY, TRACY! YOUR LITTLE PLAN WORKED! BUT YOU MUST NEVER ASK ME TO DO THAT AGAIN!"



"Tracy's eyes narrowed as she stared at me! Does she suspect, I wondered? What is she thinking? How I wished I could read her mind..."

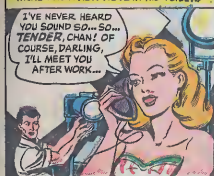
"IT WORKED! I'VE STILL GOT HIM! THANK GOODNESS HE THOUGHT FERN WAS I! AND AFTER TONIGHT, I KNOW DEFINITELY... **IT'S CHAN BOWEN I WANT!**"



"IT'S CHAN BOWEN I WANT!

POSING UNDER THE LIGHTS THE FOLLOWING DAY, I REPEATED IT OVER AND OVER! I WAS THRILLED WHEN HIS CALL CAME... THRILLED TO HEAR HIS VOICE, ASKING WHETHER MY HEADACHE WAS GONE! THERE WAS A NEW NOTE IN HIS VOICE..."

I'VE NEVER HEARD YOU SOUND SO... SO... TENDER, CHAN! OF COURSE, DARLING, I'LL MEET YOU AFTER WORK...



"I DIDN'T CARE WHO SAW US THAT NIGHT... I KNEW I HAD HIM! HE WAS DIFFERENT... THE WAY HE SAID MY NAME... TRACY... AS THOUGH IT WAS POETRY! WHEN WE DANCED, HE HELD ME GENTLY AND HIS SMILE WAS INTIMATE! I BEGAN TO WONDER..."

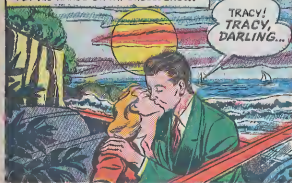
THE REAL YOU, TRACY... THAT'S WHAT I'M SEEING!

AND LIKING, I HOPE!



"IT WAS ON THE WAY HOME THAT MY WONDER CHANGED TO SUSPICION AND ANGER! CHAN PARKED THE CAR AND THEN, ALMOST AS THOUGH HE HAD DONE IT BEFORE, PUT HIS HANDS ON MY SHOULDERS..."

TRACY! TRACY, DARLING...



"WHEN HE RELEASED ME, I KNEW THE TRUTH! I DIDN'T NEED HIS WORDS TO TELL ME WHAT HAD HAPPENED LAST NIGHT... WHEN I HAD LEFT HIM ALONE... WITH FERN!"

WHAT'S WRONG, TRACY? YOU'RE ... DIFFERENT! WHEN I KISSED YOU LAST NIGHT, YOU WERE SO SHYLY EAGER... SO WARM...

SO THAT'S IT! THIS IS HER GRATITUDE TO ME!



"I COULD HARDLY WAIT TO GET HOME TO MY SWEET SISTER! THE LITTLE SNEAK TRIED TO PRETEND INNOCENCE... BUT SHE WAS NO MATCH FOR ME!"

TRACY, DON'T! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND... I DIDN'T KNOW--

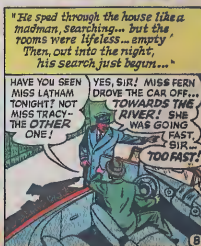
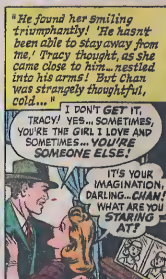
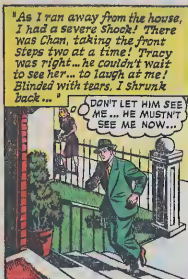
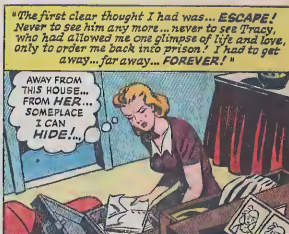
SHUT UP, YOU FOOL! DID YOU THINK YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH IT? DON'T YOU KNOW CHAN IS LAUGHING AT YOU?



"I WATCHED FERN CRINGE AS I FLUNG THE WORDS IN HER FACE... THE WORDS I KNEW WOULD HURT HER MOST!"

YES, LAUGHING AT YOU! HE KNEW ALL ABOUT IT... ALL THE TIME! HOW WHAT DO YOU THINK?





"I WAS going too fast... but not fast enough to escape the shame and heartbreak that pursued me! In my pounding head, one resolve was taking shape... the RIVER was near... and what had I to live for?"

I'LL DO IT! NO ONE WILL MISS ME... I'LL BE AT PEACE!

FERN... FERN!
PULL OVER!
STOP THE CAR!

"He had come after me, I thought! Tracy had sent him... She needed her housekeeper! The sound of Chan's voice was like a spur, goading me on! My foot went down on the accelerator... HARD!"

CRASH!

"As I went down, before a great quiet came over me, I saw Chan... poised like an arrow on the cliff! Below were dangerous rocks, swirling waters... blackness... BLACKNESS..."

FERN...
FERN!

"They said later that it was the feat of a hero! He battled the rocks and the tides... to drag me from the death I had sought..."

BE STILL, YOU LITTLE FOOL! DON'T FIGHT ME!

YOU ... LAUGHED... AT... ME...

"Afterwards, he told me how it had happened... told me with his arms cradling me... his voice deep with emotion..."

NOT TRACY, CHAN?
ME?

LAUGHED AT YOU, MY DARLING? IT WILL TAKE A LIFETIME TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU!

"Yes, THIS was the answer I wanted..."

NEVER TRACY, DARLING... ALWAYS YOU!

The END

Bride's Bouquet

ELLEN could not help overhearing the conversation. All the other bridesmaids were clustered in the dressing room, laughing and primping, and Ellen heard Lila's voice, a bit louder than the rest. "Poor Ellen . . . so drab . . . so colorless! Now, she could be stunning in that maid-of-honor outfit of hers, but . . ." her voice trailed off meaningly.

Tears rose to Ellen's eyes. Why were girls so cruel? She knew that she was quiet and shy, hardly a match for the glamorous Lila. But how could she?

There was no time to think. The wedding procession was forming and Ellen had to take her place beside the best man, in the slow, formal march towards the altar. The tears kept flooding her eyes as she heard the beautiful ceremony, watched her dearest friend accept the plain gold wedding band from the man she loved.

Somehow, Ellen found herself at the foot of the staircase with the other bridesmaids. And somehow, she found her arms suddenly full of white roses and orange blossoms . . . the bride's bouquet . . . tossed towards the laughing bridesmaids by the happy bride!

"Ellen's next!" someone shouted.

"Next to be married!" said someone else.

And then there was Lila's voice. "Ha!" she said, quite distinctly. "Catching the bride's bouquet will do *her* no good!"

Ellen knew what was happening, but she could not prevent herself. The

tears fled from her eyes, which sparkled with newly-kindled fury. Two bright pink spots appeared on her cheekbones. Holding the bouquet as though it were a banner of victory, she made her way to Lila's side.

"I seem to displease you, Lila," she said distinctly. "I'd consider it kinder of you, however, if you discussed me to my face, rather than behind my back!" And, raising her free hand, she dealt Lila a brief, stinging slap across the cheek.

Silence. And then, flushed with shame and sorrow, Ellen lifted her skirt and ran . . . out of the house and into the garden, where she could hide her blushing face and cry her heart out alone.

"Here!" said a voice. "Don't use that handkerchief . . . it's far too small. Try mine!"

Drying her eyes, Ellen looked up into a handsome, smiling face. "I'm best man . . . remember?" said the owner of the handkerchief.

Ellen blushed deeply.

"You've got a lot of charm when you're angry," he continued. "Only, I'd like to see you happy instead! Mind if we start a mutual campaign in search of mutual happiness?"

Ellen's smile was radiant.

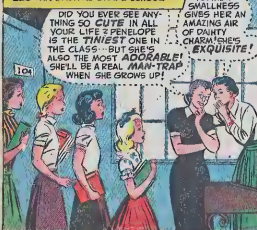
"In that case," said the best man, "allow me!" Stooping, he kissed Ellen's lips, ever so lightly. "Take my arm," he said, "and don't leave that bouquet behind. You're going to have use for it . . . sooner than you think!"

♥ CHINA DOLL! ♥



MEN ARE SUCH FOOLS—THEY STUPIDLY THINK THAT A PETITE, DAINTY-LOOKING GIRL IS REALLY AS SOFT AND HARMLESS AS SHE APPEARS TO BE ON THE SURFACE! LITTLE DO THEY KNOW THAT A DELICATE APPEARANCE CAN CONCEAL A RUTHLESS, STONY HEART THAT REVELS IN CAPTIVATING MEN... AND IN CRUELLY TOSsing THEM ASIDE AFTER THEY HAVE SERVED THEIR PURPOSE! YES, MEN CALLED ME A CHINA DOLL, AND BROKE THEIR HEARTS OVER ME... BUT LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT THE HEART OF A CHINA DOLL WAS ALSO FRAGILE... AND COULD BREAK INTO A THOUSAND ANGUISHED PIECES!

"AS FAR BACK AS GRADE SCHOOL..."



DID YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING SO CUTE IN ALL YOUR LIFE? PENELOPE IS THE **THINIST** ONE IN THE CLASS... BUT SHE'S ALSO THE MOST **ADORABLE!** SHE'LL BE A REAL **MAN-TRAP** WHEN SHE GROWS UP!

YES, HER SMALLNESS GIVES HER AN AMAZING AIR OF DAINTY CHARM! SHE'S **EXQUISITE!**

"I OVERHEARD MY TEACHER'S WHISPERS, AND MY CHILDISH HEART SHELLED WITH A JOYOUS PRIDE!"

THE OTHER GIRLS MAY BE **BIGGER** THAN ME, BUT I'M **CUTER**... THEY SAID SO! I HOPE I STAY SMALL EVEN WHEN I GROW UP, SO I'LL **ALWAYS** BE CUTER THAN THEM! BUT I WONDER WHAT SHE MEANT BY **MAN-TRAP**... OH, WELL, I GUESS I'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH WHEN I GROW UP!



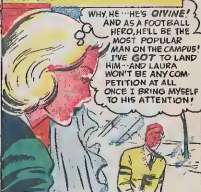
"I DID FIND OUT BY THE TIME I GOT TO BE A SORORITY MEMBER AT THE FLORIDA COLLEGE I ATTENDED! I'D GROWN UP JUST AS I OREAMED... AND ALL ALONG, I'D CAREFULLY DEVELOPED THAT SOFT, PETITE, DELICATE LOOK THAT I KNEW WOULD BE MY MAIN WEAPON IN LIFE... AND IN LOVE!"



YES, GIRLS, I FINALLY PERSUADED JOHN MITCHELL TO TRANSFER TO OUR COLLEGE! SO NOW THE SCHOOLS GOT THE BEST QUARTERBACK IN THE STATE... AND I FINALLY GOT MY HOME-TOWN BOY-FRIEND! WE'RE AS GOOD AS ENGAGED... LOOK, HE GAVE ME HIS FRATERNITY PIN!

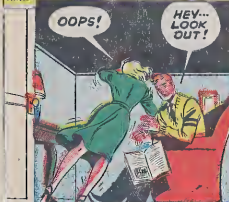


"DEEP IN MY HEART, I LAUGHED AT THEM... LAURA WAS TALL, SO SHE COULDN'T BE HALF AS PRETTY AND ATTRACTIVE TO MEN AS I WAS! AND THE NEXT DAY, WHEN JOHN MITCHELL CAME TO CALL FOR LAURA..."



WHY, HE... HE'S DIVINE! AND AS A FOOTBALL HERO, HE'LL BE THE MOST POPULAR MAN ON THE CAMPUS! I'VE GOT TO LAND HIM... AND LAURA WON'T BE ANY COMPETITION AT ALL ONCE I BRING MYSELF TO HIS ATTENTION!

"I WAITED UNTIL HE WAS SEATED IN THE NEXT ROOM... AND THEN I RAN BREATHLESSLY IN AS IF I WERE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING AND DIDN'T SEE HIM!"



OOOPS!

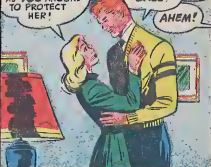
HEY... LOOK OUT!

"I WORKED EXACTLY AS I'D PLANNED... JOHN REACHED OUT AND GRABBED ME JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO FALL! AND WHEN I FELT THE STRENGTH OF THOSE ARMS, I KNEW I WOULDN'T REGRET SETTING OUT TO CAPTIVATE HIM!"



OH THANKS... I MIGHT'VE HURT MYSELF IF YOU HADN'T CAUGHT ME! BUT THEN, I GUESS ANY GIRL IS SAFE WHEN THERE'S SOMEONE AS STRONG AS YOU AROUND TO PROTECT HER!

GOSH, IT WASN'T ANYTHING! BUT IT WAS A LOT MORE FUN CATCHING SOMEONE AS TINY AND PRETTY AS YOU THAN CATCHING A FOOTBALL!



AHEM!

COME ALONG, JOHN, DEAR! I SHOULD'VE WARNED YOU TO BRING YOUR GUIT OF ARMOR... WE'VE GOT A PINK-SIZED BIG-GAME HUNTER IN OUR SORORITY!

SO LONG... IT WAS NICE MEETING YOU... AND CATCHING YOU!



"I HAD TO SEE JOHN ALONE, WHERE WE WOULDN'T BE INTERRUPTED! I KNEW THAT NO ONE EVER WATCHED THE FOOTBALL TEAM'S PRACTICE SESSIONS, AND SO WHEN SCRIMMAGE WAS OVER THE NEXT DAY, I WAS WAITING!"

HELLO... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

OH, I JUST CAME DOWN TO SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT CATCHING FOOTBALLS! YOU LOOKED WONDERFUL OUT ON THE FIELD... BUT I CAN TELL YOU ALL THAT WHILE YOU'RE WALKING ME BACK TO THE HOUSE!

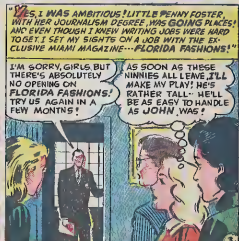
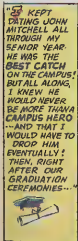
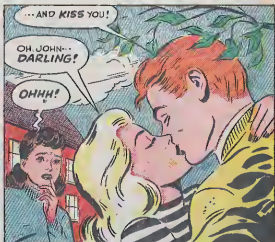


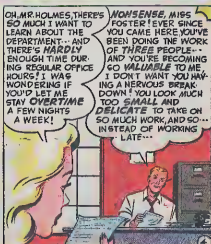
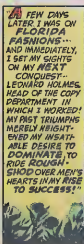
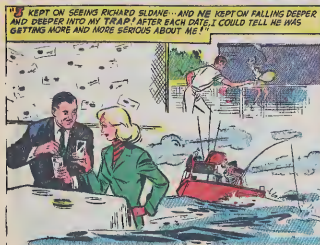
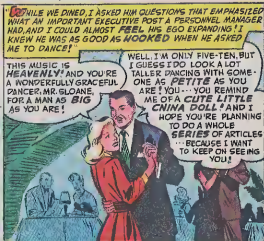
"I ROSE TO THE BAIT, AND ALL DURING OUR WALK, I KEPT THROWING HIM FLATTERING MORSELS WHICH I KNEW WOULD SWELL HIS MASCULINE EGO!"

I JUST KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO RUN ALL OVER THAT GEORGIA TEAM! THEY OUGHT TO BE AFRAID TO GO OUT ON THE SAME FIELD WITH SOMEONE AS BIG AND STRONG AS YOU!



I GUESS I DO LOOK KIND OF BIG WALKING ALONGSIDE SOMEONE LIKE YOU... WHO'S SO SMALL... AND SO CUTE... JUST LIKE A CHINA DOLL!





THERE, ISN'T **THIS** BETTER THAN WORKING LATE! I CAN TELL YOU ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT RIGHT **HERE**--AND AT THE SAME TIME, YOU'LL HAVE A BIT OF A REST, SO THAT A LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU WON'T **COLLAPSE** FROM ALL THAT WORK!



OH, IT'S JUST TOO **WONDERFUL** OUT HERE, TO TALK ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT!--THIS IS A **DARLING** LITTLE BOAT! DO YOU LIKE **EVERYTHING** THAT'S LITTLE?

"**ALL** DURING THE SAIL, I KEPT COMPLIMENTING HIM ON THE DEPT WAY HE HANDED THE BOAT--AND I KNEW I WAS HANDLING HIM DEFTLY FROM THE WAY HE KEPT SMILING AT ME! THEN, WHEN WE TIED UP...

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HAVE SUCH A GOOD TIME WITH YOU... I THOUGHT WE'D JUST BE TALKING **BUSINESS**! YOU'RE **WONDERFUL** COMPANY--AND **WONDERFUL** TO LOOK AT! YOU'RE AS SMALL AND LOVELY AS A--A **CHINA DOLL**!

OH, I JUST LOOK SMALL COMPARED TO SOMEONE AS BIG AS YOU! YOU MUST BE **AWFULLY** STRONG TO LIFT ME UP SO EASILY!



THE NEXT DAY--"

I HEARD YOU WENT ON A SAIL WITH HOLMES YESTERDAY, PENNY! WHAT GIVES--YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO **DITCH** ME, ARE YOU?

WHY, OF COURSE NOT, DICK! I'D **NEVER** DO THAT TO YOU! MR. HOLMES AND I WERE JUST DISCUSSING **BUSINESS**!



WELL, I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT--BECAUSE I HAVEN'T BEEN SEEING YOU MUCH SINCE I GOT YOU THE JOB, AND I'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU OUT THIS WEEK-END!

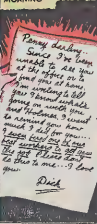
OH, I'M SORRY, DICK--I'LL BE DOING SOME WORK AT HOME THEN! AND I **DO** WISH YOU'D STOP COMING INTO MY OFFICE TO SEE ME--IT INTERFERES WITH MY WORK!



"I KEPT ON EVADING DICK--AND GOING OUT WITH LEONARD HOLMES! I HAD THE ROUTINE DOWN PAT NOW--I WAS SURE THERE WASN'T A MAN IN THE WORLD WHOM I COULDN'T BEND AROUND MY LITTLE FINGER! AS A MATTER OF FACT, GETTING LEN ON THE HOOK WAS SO EASY, IT WAS ALMOST BORING!"



"THEN, IN MY MAIL ONE MORNING--"



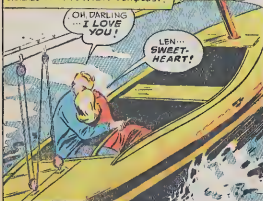
"I KNEW THEN THAT I'D HAVE TO **ACT** TO KEEP DICK FROM INTERFERING WITH MY PLANS--AND THAT THIS LETTER PUT HIM IN MY POWER!"

THIS IS A PHOTOSTATIC COPY OF YOUR LETTER, DICK--AND I'M WARNING YOU TO STAY OUT OF MY LIFE! IF YOU DON'T, I'LL TURN THE ORIGINAL LETTER OVER TO THE PUBLISHER. HOW YOU'VE BEEN USING YOUR JOB TO FURTHER YOUR LOVE AFFAIRS--
YOU'LL BE FIRED!

YOU--YOU **SHE-DEVIL**! I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A SWEET, HARMLESS CHINA DOLL--BUT YOU'RE AS HARD AS NAILS! I'M **THROUGH** WITH YOU!



THEN, WITH MY MIND FREE OF DICK, I WAS ABLE TO TURN ALL MY WILES ON LEN! AND ONE NIGHT, SUCCESS CLIMAXED MY CAMPAIGN, AND LITTLE PENNY FOSTER CHALKED UP ANOTHER CONQUEST!



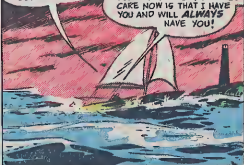
OH, DARLING... I LOVE YOU!

LEN... SWEET-HEART!

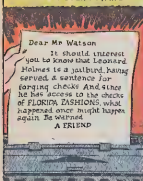
DARLING, BEFORE I ASK YOU TO MARRY ME, THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU... ABOUT MY PAST! YOU SEE, WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I GOT IN WITH A BAD CROWD... AND... WELL, I SERVED A SENTENCE FOR CHECK-FORGING!

I MADE THE CHECK GOOD EVENTUALLY, BUT...

OH, LEN, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TELL ME THAT! IT'S ALL IN THE PAST, AND ALL I CARE NOW IS THAT I HAVE YOU AND WILL ALWAYS HAVE YOU!



BUT LAST I HAD THE OPENING I WAS WAITING FOR... AND I KNEW I'D SOON HAVE THE JOB I WAS WAITING FOR... LEN'S JOB! I GOT TO MY OFFICE EARLY THE NEXT MORNING AND BEGAN TYPING...



Dear Mr. Watson

It should interest you to know that Leonard Holmes is a jailbird, having served a sentence for forging checks. And since he has access to the checks of FLORIDA DASHONS, what happened once might happen again. Be warned.
A FRIEND

"THE NEXT DAY, I LEARNED THAT MY ANONYMOUS LETTER HAD SERVED ITS PURPOSE!"

PENNY... I'VE BEEN FIRED! SOMEONE TALKED ABOUT MY JAIL SENTENCE... IT WASN'T YOU, WAS IT?

WHY OF COURSE NOT, LEN! I'D NEVER DO A THING LIKE THAT!



WELL, I DON'T HAVE A JOB... BUT THAT ISN'T IMPORTANT, AS LONG AS I STILL HAVE YOU!

I'M SORRY LEN, BUT I'M AFRAID EVERYTHING'S OFF BETWEEN US! YOU PROBABLY WON'T GET A JOB ANYWHERE NOW THAT THE NEWS ABOUT YOUR SENTENCE LEAKED OUT... AND I'VE GOT TO CONSIDER MY FUTURE! AND BESIDES, AFTER THINKING IT OVER, I DON'T BELIEVE I WANT TO MARRY AN EX-CONVICT!



AND THEN ALL MY DAYS OF WORKING AND PLANNING TO GET TO BE LEN'S TOP ASSISTANT PAID OFF... BECAUSE I WAS PROMOTED TO TAKE HIS PLACE! MY TRIUMPH KNEW NO BOUNDS, BUT SOMEHOW, I FELT A GNAWING DISSATISFACTION... HAD I REACHED THE PEAK OF MY SUCCESS? HERE THERE NO NEW WORLDS... OR MEN... TO CONQUER! THEN...



MISS FOSTER, WOULD YOU PLEASE COME INTO THE CONFERENCE ROOM? MR. EDWARD WATSON, JR. HAS JUST ARRIVED TO TAKE OVER THE ACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE FIRM NOW THAT HIS FATHERS RETIRED... AND HE WANTS TO SEE ALL THE DEPARTMENT HEADS!

THANK YOU, LUCILLE... I'LL BE RIGHT IN!



...AND I WANT TO GET TO KNOW EACH ONE OF YOU PERSONALLY! IF ANY OF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS YOU THINK OUGHT TO COME TO MY ATTENTION, FEEL FREE TO COME INTO MY OFFICE! AS YOU'LL ALL FIND OUT, I'M NOT A STUFFED SHIRT...



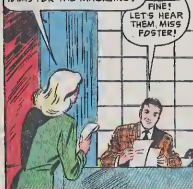
GOLLY BUT HE'S HANDSOME... AND TALL! THERE ARE NEW WORLDS... AND A NEW MAN... TO CONQUER!

AS I LISTENED TO HIS DEER MASCULE VOICE, I BECAME ENTRALLED WITH A MAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE! A STRANGE YEARNING CAME OVER ME TO HEAR THAT THROBBING VOICE WHISPER WORDS OF LOVE INTO MY EAR... AND I KNEW THAT HERE WAS A MAN WHOM I REALLY WANTED TO CAPTIVATE... AND LOVE!

"DRIVEN BY THIS ALL-CONSUMING LONGING TO INTRIGUE EDWARD WATSON AS HE INTRIGUED ME, I BEGAN PLANNING MY CAMPAIGN! I LEARNED THAT HE USUALLY CAME IN ON SATURDAYS, EVEN THOUGH NO ONE ELSE WORKED THAT DAY, AND SO ... ONE HOT SATURDAY AFTERNOON..."



OH, MR. WATSON, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN TODAY UNTIL I HEARD YOU MOVING AROUND IN HERE! BUT I'M GLAD I HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU...I'VE GOT A NUMBER OF NEW IDEAS FOR THE MAGAZINE!



FINE! LET'S HEAR THEM, MISS FOSTER!

WELL...IT'S RATHER WARM HERE IN THE OFFICE, AND SOME OF MY IDEAS ARE A BIT COMPLICATED... COULDN'T WE TALK THEM OVER IN SOME COOL PLACE? THE BEACH, FOR EXAMPLE?



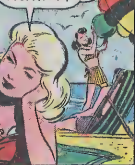
HMM, FOR A LITTLE GIRL, YOU CERTAINLY COME UP WITH SOME EXCELLENT IDEAS! LET'S GO!



WELL, WHAT YOU'VE SUGGESTED SO FAR WAS PRETTY GOOD! WHAT NEXT?



OH, IT'S MUCH TOO LOVELY OUT HERE TO WASTE OUR TIME TALKING BUSINESS!...A BIG, STRONG-LOOKING MAN LIKE YOU SHOULD BE A WONDERFUL SWIMMER! HOW ABOUT A DIP?



I...I'VE NEVER BEEN OUT THIS FAR BEFORE...BUT SOMEHOW, I'M NOT AT ALL AFRAID...AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU! IT'S WONDERFUL...FLDATING WAY OUT HERE LIKE THIS...JUST THE TWO OF US!



THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO BE AFRAID! YOU'RE THE FRAGILE, EXQUISITE TYPE... THE KIND OF GIRL MEN WOULD RISK THEIR LIVES TO PROTECT!

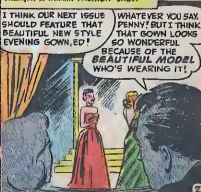


"THERE WAS SOMETHING IN HIS EYES THAT TOLD ME ED WATSON WAS ALREADY BEWITCHED BY ME! JUST A FEW MORE DATES WITH HIM, AND I KNEW I WOULD GET HIM TO PROPOSE...AND THIS TIME, MY HEART TOLD ME I WOULD ACCEPT!"

"AND WITH EACH DATE, AS I DREW HIM MORE AND MORE INTO MY MATRIMONIAL TRAP, I LAUGHED INWARDLY AT HOW EASILY MEN COULD BE ENSNARED...WHEN ONE KNEW ALL THE TRICKS OF FLATTERY THAT MADE THEM FEEL BIG AND STRONG AND IMPORTANT!"

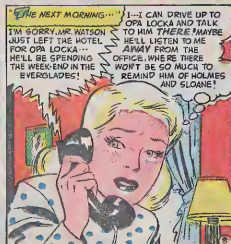
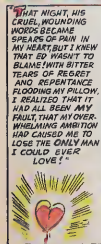
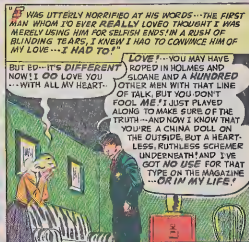
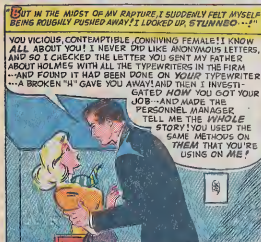
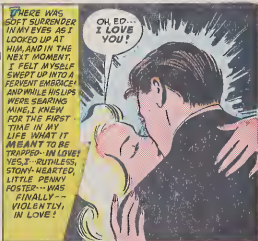
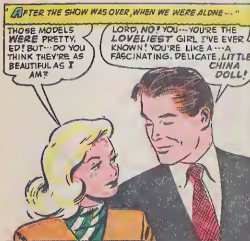


"ED SOON BEGAN GIVING ME A FREE HAND IN DECIDING WHAT FASHION COPY WE WOULD FEATURE, AND I STARTED HAVING VISIONS OF ULTIMATELY RUNNING THE MAGAZINE MYSELF! THEN, AT A MIAMI FASHION SHOW..."



I THINK OUR NEXT ISSUE SHOULD FEATURE THAT BEAUTIFUL NEW STYLE EVENING GOWN, ED!

WHATEVER YOU SAY, PENNY! BUT I THINK THAT GOWN LOOKS SO WONDERFUL BECAUSE OF THE BEAUTIFUL MODEL WHO'S WEARING IT!



"ED DROVE RECKLESSLY TO THE SMALL TOWN OF OPA LOCKA, AND THERE I FOUND A SEMINOLE INDIAN GUIDE WHO SAID THAT A MAN OF ED'S DESCRIPTION HAD JUST TAKEN OUT A BOAT WITH TWO OTHER MEN." THE SEMINOLE SAID THAT HIS BOAT COULD CATCH UP TO THEM... FOR A PRICE... AND SOON WE WERE PLUNGING INTO THE FORBIDDING, GLOOMY EVERGLADES!"



"OH, WONDERFUL... PULL UP ALONGSIDE THEM, PLEASE!"

ED... PLEASE LISTEN TO ME! I CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING... I LOVE YOU, I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU...!

WELL, YOU CAME OUT HERE FOR NOTHING THEN! I SEE THROUGH YOUR ACT AND I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU!... GET AWAY FROM HERE!

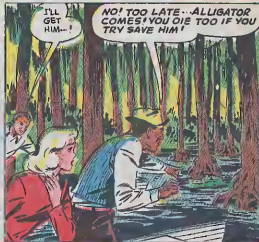


"WHEN AS HE LUNGED TO PUSH MY BOAT AWAY, HE SUDDENLY LOST HIS BALANCE AND TOPPLED OVER THE SIDE! THERE WAS A SICKENING THUD AS HIS HEAD STRUCK THE BOAT, AND MY HEART FILLED WITH FRIGHT!"



"OH GET HIM, SOMEONE... QUICK!"

"OH!!!"



"I'LL GET HIM...!"

"NO! TOO LATE... ALLIGATOR COMES! YOU DIE TOO IF YOU TRY SAVE HIM!"

"HORROR-STRICKEN, PARALYZED WITH FEAR, I WATCHED THE SLIMY MONSTER CRAWL NEARER TO THE MAN I LOVED! AND THEN, WITH A SUDDEN REALIZATION THAT I REALLY COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT ED, I FOUND MYSELF LEAPING INTO THE WATER!"



"IT'S TOO CLOSE -- I'D NEVER GET HIM ABOARD IN TIME!"

"NO! STOP! IT IS DEATH!"

"DESPERATELY, I THRASHED ABOUT IN THE WATER TRYING TO DISTRACT THE BEAST'S ATTENTION FROM ED, WHO WAS STILL STUNNED FROM THE BLOW HE'D RECEIVED! AND THEN THE MONSTER'S BEADY EYES AND TERRIBLE MOUTH TURNED TOWARDS ME!"



"IT WORKED! I'LL HAVE TO... HOLD HIM OFF A WHILE... UNTIL THEY CAN PULL ED BACK INTO THE BOAT! THIS POLE... IT HAS A HOOK AT THE END..."

"TRYING TO BEAT DOWN THE RISING PANIC AND TERROR IN MY HEART, I WAITED UNTIL THE FOUL BREATH FROM THE HUGE, Gaping MOUTH ALMOST ENGULFED ME--AND THEN I JABBED THE HOOK WITH ALL MY DESPERATE STRENGTH!"

"ATTA GIRL...
HOLD 'IM OFF
TILL I UNLIMBER
THIS GUN!"



"MY ARMS FELT AS IF THEY WERE BEING TORN FROM ME BY THE VIOLENT THRASHING OF THE ALLIGATOR, AS I THRUST THE POLE FORWARD WITH EVERY DUNCE OF PRESSURE I COULD SUMMON UP THE STRAIN WAS AGONIZING-- TOO MUCH-- AND THEN, JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO GIVE UP AND LET GO--"



"MOMENTS LATER, ALMOST COLLAPSING FROM THE ORDEAL, I FELT MYSELF BEING GRASPED BY STRONG HANDS!"

"LITTLE ONE, SHE
ONE BRAVE SQUAW!
MUST LOVE MAN
HEAP TO WANT
DIE FOR HIM!"

"I'M--O-KAY--JUST GROGGY!
BUT I WAS CONSCIOUS
ENOUGH--TO SEE WHAT
HAPPENED--"



"THE MOMENT I KNEW ED WAS SAFE, I WAS ALONE ONCE AGAIN WITH MY OWN SORROW! I'D SAVED HIM, BUT I COULDN'T SAVE MYSELF FROM A LIFE OF GRIEVING LONELINESS AND ANGUISHED DESOLATION--A LIFE WITHOUT THE MAN I LOVED!"

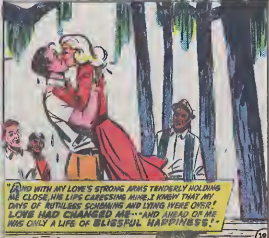
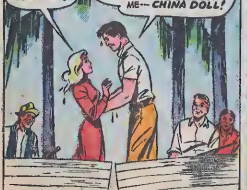
"I--I GUESS YOU'D
BETTER TURN BACK
NOW! THERE'S
NOTHING HERE--"

"NO, WAIT, PENNY! YOU LITTLE
DARLING-- I'VE LOVED YOU ALL
ALONG! I TREATED YOU AS I
DID ONLY BECAUSE I THOUGHT
YOU WERE TRYING TO TRAP ME--
LIKE ALL THE OTHERS YOU
NEVER LOVED! BUT NOW--"



"NOW THAT I'VE SEEN YOU RISK YOUR LIFE FOR ME, I KNOW YOU'RE CAPABLE OF UNSELFISH DEVOTION-- AND THAT YOU'RE REALLY IN LOVE WITH ME! AND YOU'RE THE ONLY TRUE LOVE FOR ME-- CHINA DOLL!"

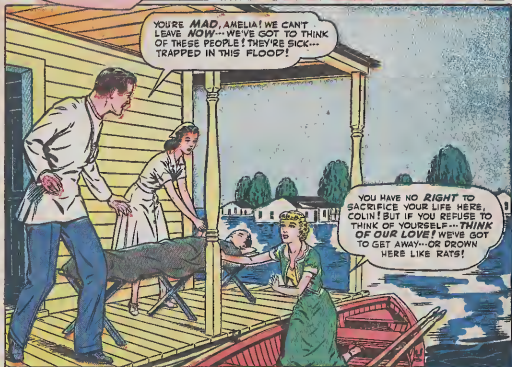
"OH, ED,
DARLING!"



"AND WITH MY LOVE'S STRONG ARMS TENDERLY HOLDING ME CLOSE, MY LIFE CARESSING MINE, I KNEW THAT MY DAYS OF RUTHLESS SCHEMING AND LIVING WERE OVER! LOVE HAD CHANGED ME--AND AHEAD OF ME WAS ONLY A LIFE OF BLISSFUL HAPPINESS!"

A LOVE THAT DOESN'T KNOW
THE MEANING OF SACRIFICE
ISN'T ENOUGH...ISN'T TRUE LOVE!
IT TOOK ANGUISH AND TEARS FOR
AMELIA PRESCOTT TO LEARN
THIS...TO LEARN THAT ROMANCE IS
STRONGEST WHERE BEATS...
"The
HELPING HEART!"

The HELPING HEART!



"YOU'VE HEARD OF AMELIA PRESCOTT, READER... HEIRESS TO
MILLIONS! AND WHAT WAS I DOING HERE, AT THE MORTON
SCHOOL FOR NURSING? IT'S A LONG STORY, AND I'M
STILL YUMBED BY ITS HEARTBREAK..."

AMELIA PRESCOTT?
OH, YES, WE HAVE YOUR
APPLICATION! PLEASE
FILL OUT THIS CARD...
IT'S A ROUTINE
QUESTIONNAIRE!

THANK
YOU...



"I HAD MADE MY CHOICE... TO BECOME A
NURSE... AND ALL THE QUESTIONS I HAD
TO ANSWER WERE SIMPLE! BUT AS I CAME TO
THE END OF THE PAGE..."

"WHY DID I CHOOSE
THIS PROFESSION?"
I... I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO ANSWER
THIS... TO FIND THE
RIGHT WORDS...



"THE QUESTION BURNED ITSELF INTO MY MIND! I SHUT MY EYES... BUT I COULDN'T CLOSE OFF MY MEMORY! FACES, SCENES... THEY SWIRLED THROUGH MY MIND! AND THEN A PICTURE EMERGED, SHARP... CLEAR... POIGNANT!"

I WANT YOU TO MEET THIS DR. COLIN MCKAY, AMELIA! HE'S DONE MORE TO MAKE MY PRESCOTT MEDICAL FOUNDATION FAMOUS THAN ALL THE OTHER DOCTORS PUT TOGETHER! THIS RECEPTION IS IN HIS HONOR, YOU KNOW!

I'VE BEEN READING ABOUT HIM IN THE PAPERS, FATHER! ALL THEY SEEM TO WRITE ABOUT IS DR. MCKAY'S DISCOVERIES IN THIS AND THAT... I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO BE AWFULLY BORED BY HIM!



"I HAD IMAGINED DR. MCKAY AS AN OLD MAN, BUT I WAS IN FOR A PLEASANT SURPRISE! MY HEART MISSED A BEAT WHEN..."

WHY, MR. PRESCOTT... I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU HAD A DAUGHTER... MUCH LESS ONE SO BEAUTIFUL!

IN NOW YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO FIND OUT THAT I HAVE MORE THAN MONEY WITH WHICH TO BACK THE FOUNDATION... MY DAUGHTER, AMELIA!



"SOMEHOW--WITHOUT KNOWING IT OURSELVES... COLIN MCKAY AND I STAYED CLOSE TOGETHER ALL THROUGH THAT EVENING..."

I ASKED YOUR FATHER IF I MIGHT TAKE YOU HOME... AND IF YOU AGREE WITH HIM, AMELIA... YOU DON'T MIND IF I CALL YOU AMELIA?

NOT AT ALL! IN FACT, I LIKE IT SO MUCH... I'LL CALL YOU COLIN!



"ALONE IN MY ROOM THAT NIGHT, I TRIED TO UNDERSTAND THE STRANGE, WILD STIRRINGS IN MY HEART! IT WAS AS THOUGH I HAD KNOWN COLIN ALL MY LIFE... AS THOUGH HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF ME!"

AMELIA PRESCOTT... YOU'VE FALLEN FOR THE DOCTOR! DON'T TRY TO FOOL YOURSELF... IT'S REAL LOVE!



YES, WE SAW A LOT OF EACH OTHER AFTER THAT... AND FINALLY..."

AMELIA, DEAR, I NEED A DOCTOR... BECAUSE IT'S HEART TROUBLE! AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP ME... I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU! WILL YOU... WILL YOU MARRY ME?

OH, DARLING... I'VE GOT THE SAME TROUBLE!



I'D HARDLY DARED HOPE, DARLING! I WAS SO AFRAID...

YOU'RE THE GREAT DR. COLIN MCKAY, AFRAID OF ME? OH, COLIN... IT WAS I WHO WAS AFRAID... AFRAID THAT THERE'D BE NO ROOM FOR ME IN YOUR HEART!



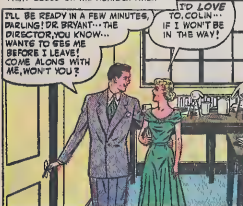
"OF COURSE, THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE FAMOUS DR. MCKAY TO ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST GIRLS IN THE WORLD WAS NEWS... AND I REVEALED IN IT!"

MY DEAR, THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW TIMES I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOUR NAME IN THE PAPERS! YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A FINE YOUNG MAN!

OH, DAD, I LOVE HIM SO MUCH! AND THE PAPERS... LOOK WHAT THEY'RE SAYING! THEY CALL ME HIS SECRET INSPIRATION... GIVING ME CREDIT FOR HELPING HIM IN HIS DISCOVERIES! I ONLY WISH IT WERE TRUE!

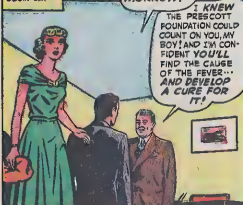


"THE WORLD WAS A WONDERFUL PLACE...AND THERE COULD BE NOTHING BUT HAPPINESS AHEAD! YES, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...I DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE THAT FIRST FAINT CLOUD ON THE HORIZON WHEN..."



"I GRASPED THE WORDS. BUT THEY HAD NO MEANING TO ME...UNTIL I HEARD COLIN SAY..."

HAVE MY EQUIPMENT SHIPPED THERE IMMEDIATELY! I'LL TAKE A PLANE TOMORROW!



I KNEW THE PRESCOTT FOUNDATION COULD COUNT ON YOU, MY BOY! AND I'M CONFIDENT YOU'LL FIND THE CAUSE OF THE FEVER... AND DEVELOP A CURE FOR IT!

THIS MESSAGE JUST ARRIVED FROM AN INEZ FREVILLE...SOME NURSE DOWN IN THE SWAMPLANDS OF LOUISIANA WHO'S FIGHTING AN UNKNOWN FEVER! THERE'S NO RECORD OF THIS FEVER...SEEMS TO COME FROM THE ANIMALS THOSE PEOPLE HUNT DOWN THERE...AND NO CURE! THEY'VE APPEALED TO US TO SEND SOMEONE DOWN!

OF COURSE, DR. BRYANT! I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY!



"THE GAY, EVEN FLOW OF MY LIFE WAS SUDDENLY SHATTERED! COLIN...GOING AWAY! COLIN...IN THE DANGEROUS SWAMPLANDS OF LOUISIANA!"

NO, WAIT! YOU...YOU CAN'T THINK OF LEAVING ME! YOU CAN'T GO AWAY...NOT NOW!

BUT, DEAR, THAT'S MY WORK! AFTER ALL, I'M A RESEARCH PHYSICIAN!



"DESPERATELY, I APPEALED TO DR. BRYANT!"

COLIN SPOKE WITHOUT THINKING! PLEASE...PLEASE DON'T ACCEPT HIS DECISION...NOT BEFORE HE DISCUSSES IT WITH ME, AT LEAST!

OF COURSE, IF HE WANTS TO THINK IT OVER...I'LL WAIT! HE CAN PHONE ME TONIGHT...BUT...



"I FELT THE TENSENESS IN THE AIR AS HE LEFT! I COULD SENSE HIS ANGER! COLIN...ANGRY WITH ME!"

COLIN! WAIT...LET ME EXPLAIN!

WHAT EXPLANATION COULD YOU GIVE ME? I'VE GOT TO GO...IT'S MY WORK...MY DUTY! NOT EVEN YOU CAN MAKE ME CHANGE MY MIND! SO PLEASE DON'T TRY!



BUT, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO! IT'S DANGEROUS...YOU MIGHT GET THE FEVER!...AND AFTER ALL, FATHER HAS PLENTY OF MONEY...HE CAN GIVE ANOTHER DONATION TO THE FOUNDATION! ANOTHER DOCTOR CAN BE HIRED...YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO!

I LOVE YOU, ANELIA! I BELONG TO YOU...BUT YOU MUST REMEMBER...ALWAYS...THAT MY LOVE IS NOT FOR SALE!



"SILENTLY, WE DROVE TO MY HOME
...AND THERE..."

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

I'M PHONING DR.
BRYANT TO TELL
HIM THAT I'M
LEAVING ON
THE PLANE IN
THE MORNING!



"THERE WAS A HARD FINALITY IN HIS
WORDS... AND I REALIZED THAT HE
WOULD NOT LISTEN TO MY PLEADINGS!
I WAS DEFEATED... AND I KNEW
IT! HERE WAS SOMETHING STRONGER
THAN I... SOMETHING I HAD NEVER
FACED BEFORE!"

YES, DR. BRYANT, I'M
GOING... DESPITE
MISS PRESCOTT'S
OBJECTIONS! SHE...

AMELIA!
WAIT!



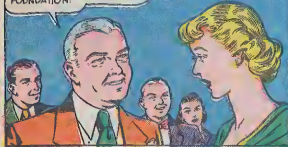
HE'S NOT LIKE THE OTHER MEN
I'VE KNOWN! HE ISN'T AFRAID OF
ME... OR MY MONEY! I CAN'T
ORDER HIM ABOUT... BUT HOW
CAN I MAKE HIM DO WHAT I
WANT... HOW? HOW CAN I
PROTECT OUR LOVE?



"I THOUGHT OF MY FATHER THEN! HE'D SEE THINGS MY WAY... AND
USE HIS INFLUENCE TO KEEP COLIN WITH ME! BUT WHEN I DE-
SCENDED, I FOUND THE PLACE SWARMING WITH REPORTERS!"

IT'S A WONDERFUL THING HE'S
DOING, AMELIA! IMAGINE... GOING
INTO THE BACKWATERS OF LOUISIANA
TO FIGHT DEADLY FEVER! IT'S MEN
LIKE COLIN WHO MAKE ME PROUD
OF FINANCING THE MEDICAL
FOUNDATION!

IT'S... NO USE!
DAD'S ON HIS
SIDE, TOO!



MISS PRESCOTT!
HOW DO YOU FEEL
ABOUT YOUR
FIANCE LEAVING
YOU? OUR READERS
WILL WANT TO
KNOW!

YOU MUST BE
VERY PROUD
OF DR. McKAY!



"IN THAT INSTANT, THE SOLUTION TO MY PROBLEM
FLASHED THROUGH MY MIND! I MADE MY DECISION!"

I AM PROUD... AND HERE'S
A SCOOP YOU CAN PRINT!
I'VE DECIDED TO GO WITH
HIM! THERE'S NOTHING I WANT
MORE THAN THE PRIVILEGE OF
WORKING AT HIS SIDE...
SHARING HIS DANGERS!

WOW! WHAT
A HUMAN
INTEREST
STORY!



"AND WHEN THE REPORTERS HAD LEFT..."

DARLING... YOU DON'T KNOW HOW
HAPPY YOU'VE MADE ME! BUT
IT'S DANGEROUS! DON'T YOU
THINK IT WOULD BE WISER IF
YOU REMAINED BEHIND?

NOT ANOTHER
WORD! UP TO
NOW, I'VE BEEN
JUST A SILLY
GIRL! BUT NOW
I'M GOING TO LEARN
TO BE YOUR HELPER...
TO SHARE YOUR LIFE!
I'M GOING WITH
YOU!



"**IT WAS AN IMPULSIVE DECISION--AND I BEGAN TO REGRET IT ALMOST FROM THE MOMENT WE ARRIVED AT A RAMSHACKLE DEPOT IN THE BACK-COUNTRY OF LOUISIANA--**"

I... I DIDN'T QUITE EXPECT IT TO BE LIKE THIS...

I WARNED YOU, AMELIA! AND IT'S GOING TO BE EVEN ROUGHER BEFORE WE REACH ST. PIERRE--WHERE I'M GOING TO DO MY WORK!

YOU ARE NEW DOCTORS! MY NAME IS **ARMAND**... I TAKE YOU TO VILLAGE!



"**FROM A BROKEN-DOWN PIER INTO A SMALL, ANCIENT BOAT--AND INTO THE DEPTHS OF A DYSMAL SWAMP!**"

COLIN--I--I'M AFRAID! THERE'S SOMETHING UGLY, WEIRD ABOUT THIS PLACE!

WHY, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! JUST TREES--VINES--MOSS--AND A SWAMP!



"**BUT I COULDN'T GET OVER THE FEELING OF A THREAT HANGING OVER ME! PERHAPS IT WAS A PRE-MONITION OF THINGS TO COME--BUT WHATEVER IT WAS, I HATED THIS PLACE--AND FEARED IT!**"

ST. PIERRE JUST AHEAD! NURSE INEZ, SHE HAVE HOUSE ALL READY FOR YOU!

THANK YOU, ARMAND!



"**IT SAW THE HOUSE PREPARED FOR US--AND MY HEART SANK!**"

OH--HH! DO--DO THEY EXPECT US TO STAY IN THAT THING?

WELL, IT'S NO PALACE... BUT IT'S PROBABLY THE BEST THEY HAVE OUT HERE!

DR. MCKAY! PLEASE HURRY! I'M INEZ FREVILLE--



MORE THAN HALF THE PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE ARE NOW DOWN WITH THE FEVER--IT'S FAR WORSE THAN WHEN I FIRST WIRED THE FOUNDATION! I'M GOING HALF OUT OF MY MIND--I--

NOW, NOW, NURSE! I'LL DO WHAT I CAN--BUT I THINK I'LL HAVE TO PRESCRIBE SOME REST FOR YOU FIRST! I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE ABOUT EXHAUSTED!



I DO NEED SOME REST, DOCTOR! I HAVEN'T HAD ANY SLEEP IN ALMOST TWO DAYS--BUT FIRST I MUST SHOW YOU OUR PATIENTS!

VERY WELL, NURSE!--AMELIA, DEAR, WILL YOU UNPACK MY THINGS? I'LL TURN THIS ROOM INTO A LABORATORY--



"THEY LEFT TOGETHER--AND I WAS ALONE IN THE SHABBY ROOM! I WANTED TO CRY AS I STARED AT THE CRATES AND BAGGAGE PILED UP BEFORE ME--"



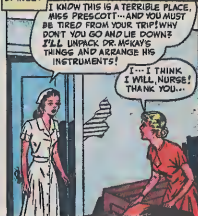
"HE--HE TALKED TO ME AS IF I WERE A SERVANT! I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO FIRST--MY CLOTHES ARE A MESS--"

"RESENTMENT FLOODED MY MIND...LOATHING AND HATRED FOR THIS PLACE--FOR THE SUFFERING PEOPLE WHO HAD BROUGHT US HERE!"

"I WAS A FOOL FOR COMING! I SHOULD HAVE INSISTED THAT ANOTHER DOCTOR BE SENT--NOT COLIN! AND NOW--"



"I WAS STARTLED BY THE CREAKING OF THE DOOR! I LOOKED UP--INTO THE WEARY EYES OF INEZ!"



"I KNOW THIS IS A TERRIBLE PLACE, MRS. PRESCOTT--AND YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM YOUR TRIP! WHY DON'T YOU GO AND LIE DOWN? I'LL UNPACK DR. MCKAY'S THINGS AND ARRANGE HIS INSTRUMENTS!"

"I--I THINK I WILL, NURSE! THANK YOU--"

"A HARD LUMPY BED IN A SMALL, DREARY ROOM--WITH NEITHER REST NOR SLEEP! I STARTED UP GUILTYLY AS I HEARD COLIN RETURN--"



"DARLING, I'M SORRY! I--I COULDN'T--"

"BUT YOU'VE DONE A WONDERFUL JOB! YOU'VE ARRANGED MY INSTRUMENTS JUST AS I WANTED! IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER--I'D THINK YOU'D HAD NURSE'S TRAINING!"

"HE CAME TOWARD ME--AND IN A MOMENT HIS ARMS WERE HOLDING ME CLOSE, HIS EAGER LIPS SEEKING MINE! I KNEW THAT GRATITUDE HAD FANNED HIS LOVE--THAT HE HAD MISTAKEN INEZ'S WORK FOR MINE! AND, LIKE A CHEAT, I SEIZED UPON HIS LOVE--HELD IT CLOSE!"

"DARLING, I DIDN'T MAKE ANY MISTAKE IN LETTING YOU COME ALONG! YOU ARE MY INSPIRATION--MY HELPER!"

"OH, COLIN--COLIN--I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!"

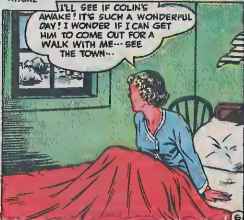


"BUT I'M TIRED--TERRIBLY TIRED! I STAYED ONLY TO SEE YOU AGAIN BEFORE GOING TO SLEEP--"



"I'M SORRY--I FORGET THAT YOU'RE NOT USED TO THIS SORT OF THING! GET A GOOD NIGHT'S REST!"

"SLEEP CAME QUICKLY, EASILY, WITH DREAMS OF SWEET ROMANCE! MY HEART WAS LIGHT AND GAY WHEN I AWOKE--"



"I'LL SEE IF COLIN'S AWAKE! IT'S SUCH A WONDERFUL DAY! I WONDER IF I CAN GET HIM TO COME OUT FOR A WALK WITH ME--SEE THE TOWN--"

"BUT THE LAUGHTER IN MY HEART DIED SPEEDILY! FOR THERE WAS COLIN, HIS HEAD CLOSE TO THAT OF INEZ..."



OH... GOOD MORNING, MISS PRESCOTT! YOU'LL FIND BREAK-FAST IN THE KITCHEN!

YES... INEZ AND I HAVE ALREADY HAD OURS!



SOMETHING TWISTED MY THROAT SO THAT I COULDN'T SAY A WORD! THERE WAS A DULL, ACHING PAIN IN MY HEART... A MOUNTING FEAR..."

HE CALLED HER INEZ! AND HE HARDLY PAID ANY ATTENTION TO ME... SENDING ME OFF ALONE AS IF HE WANTED TO GET RID OF ME!



"B HAD TO GET OUT OF THAT HOUSE! SO, LEAVING MY UNTOUCHED FOOD..."

I'M HELPLESS HERE--AND COLIN IS SLIPPING AWAY FROM ME! IF ONLY THERE WERE A WAY TO GET HIM BACK HOME-- BACK TO THE MEDICAL FOUNDATION! IF I COULD ONLY MAKE HIM FORGET THIS MADNESS OF SERVING PEOPLE WHO MEAN NOTHING TO HIM!



"AND THEN I STOPPED--WHEN I HEARD TWO MEN SPEAKING AS THEY WORKED AT THE DIKE..."

THIS WEAKEST PART OF DIKE, ARMAND...AND HEAVY RAINS MAKE WATERS ANGRY! BUT THIS SUPPORT WILL MAKE DIKE STRONG!

IN OLD DAYS, WHEN FEVER CAME, WE LET WATER BREAK THROUGH DIKE--DROWN VILLAGE! THEN WE GO TO NEW PLACE, BUILD NEW HOMES!



IT IS DIFFERENT NOW, ARMAND! DOCTOR WILL CURE FEVER! WE WILL NEVER HAVE TO OPEN THE DIKES AND DESTROY OUR HOMES!

MAYBE--BUT I DO NOT TRUST THE NEW WAYS!



"IN THE BACK OF MY MIND, A FRIGHTENING IDEA TOOK SHAPE! PERHAPS THIS WAS THE WAY TO TAKE COLIN FROM HERE! IF THE DIKE DID BREAK..."

THE DOCTOR WAS LOOKING FOR YOU, MISS PRESCOTT! AND BY THE WAY--I DIDN'T TELL HIM THAT I SET UP HIS EQUIPMENT! LET'S FORGET ALL ABOUT THAT, SHALL WE?

THANK YOU, INEZ...



"**14** MOUNTING FEAR IN MY HEART, I WATCHED INEZ LEAVE! THERE WAS A LOOK IN HER EYES... A STRANGE, GLOWING EXPRESSION... AND WITH A BITTER PANG, I SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH COLIN... MY COLIN!"

AMELIA--OH, THERE YOU ARE! WILL YOU COME AND HELP ME, DEAR?

YES, I'LL BE--RIGHT IN--



"**15** WASHED TEST TUBES, KEPT HIS EQUIPMENT CLEAN, TRIED TO HELP AS WELL AS I COULD-- BUT I HATED IT! HATED MY SURROUNDINGS, WHAT I WAS DOING-- HATED INEZ! AND SO THE DAYS PASSED-- FILLED WITH HATES AND FEARS--"

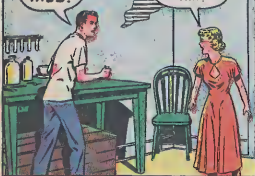
I'M JUST IN THEIR WAY! THEY'RE DRAWING CLOSER TO EACH OTHER AND I CAN'T HOLD COLIN-- NOT IF WE STAY HERE MUCH LONGER...



"AND THEN CAME THE BITTEREST MOMENT OF MY LIFE! COLIN HAD BEEN WORKING CONTINUOUSLY THROUGH THE WHOLE DAY, WHEN SUDDENLY HE LOOKED UP AND--"

WHERE'S INEZ? INEZ!

WHY WHAT'S THE MATTER, DEAR?



WHAT IS IT, COLIN?

I'VE FOUND IT, INEZ! THE SERUM TO CURE THE FEVER!



"**16** HIS WORDS WERE LIKE A MORTAL BLOW TO MY HEART! HE HAD FOUND THE CURE FOR THE FEVER! BUT HIS FIRST THOUGHT HAD BEEN FOR INEZ! SHE HAD TO KNOW IT-- NOT I! CHOKING WITH SOBS, I RAN FROM THE ROOM-- INTO THE NIGHT--"

I'VE LOST HIM... I'VE LOST HIM!



"**17** HEARD THE POUNDINGS OF FEET BEHIND ME--"

AMELIA! DARLING-- WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY DID YOU RUN OUT?

I--I WAS SO HAPPY, DEAR! YES-- THAT WAS IT-- HAPPY AT YOUR SUCCESS! OH, COLIN-- I LOVE YOU SO MUCH! HOLD ME-- HOLD ME CLOSE!



LET'S GO BACK-- WE'VE GOT SO MUCH TO DO YET! I'M GOING TO TRY MY SERUM ON A PATIENT-- A BOY NEAR DEATH! IF I CAN MAKE HIM WELL--

WE--WE AREN'T GOING HOME NOW? WE'RE STAYING HERE EVEN AFTER YOU'VE FOUND THE SERUM?



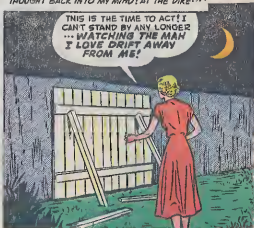
AH--HERE'S THE PATIENT!
INEZ IS A WONDERFUL GIRL
...THE WAY SHE WORKS
WITH THESE PEOPLE! I
DON'T KNOW WHAT
I'D HAVE DONE
WITHOUT HER!

I--I DON'T FEEL WELL,
COLIN! I'LL GO OUT
INTO THE FRESH
AIR FOR A WHILE!



IT WAS THE SIGHT OF OLD ARMAND THAT BROUGHT THE
THOUGHT BACK INTO MY MIND! AT THE DIKE--

THIS IS THE TIME TO ACT! I
CAN'T STAND BY ANY LONGER
...WATCHING THE MAN
I LOVE DRIFT AWAY
FROM ME!



I--I'LL KNOCK AWAY THESE
SUPPORTS! WE WON'T BE
ABLE TO STAY HERE THEN
...AND NOBODY WILL
SUSPECT ME!



I WATCHED THE WATER TRICKLE
THROUGH THE DAMAGED DIKE--
WEARING AWAY THE SOFT EARTH!"



IT'S COMING THROUGH!
SOON IT WILL BE BEYOND
CONTROL--AND MY
LOVE WILL BE
SAFE! I'LL HURRY
BACK NOW--

HE'S SLEEPING NOW,
AMELIA--WE'VE GOT
TO KEEP CONSTANT
WATCH OVER HIM!

IF I CAN DO
ANYTHING,
DARLING--
ANYTHING

...PLEASE
CALL ME! I'LL
REST IN MY
ROOM FOR
A BIT--



I SHUT MYSELF AWAY IN MY ROOM--GLOATING WITH-
IN MY HEART! I KNEW THAT THE WATER WOULD BE
POURING INTO THE VILLAGE STREETS SOON--AND I
WAITED--WAITED UNTIL I HEARD EXCITED VOICES
FROM BELOW! THEN--

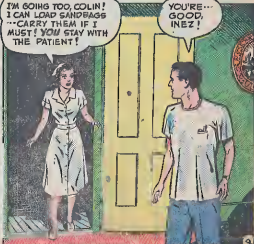
THE DIKE! THE DIKE!
...IT IS BROKEN! WE
CANNOT STAY HERE--WE
MUST GO TO HIGHER
GROUNDS!

NO! THIS PATIENT
CAN'T BE MOVED--
HE'LL DIE! GET
EVERYONE TO
WORK ON THE
DIKE! SAVE
IT!



I'M GOING TOO, COLIN!
I CAN LOAD SANDBAGS!
--CARRY THEM IF I
MUST! YOU STAY WITH
THE PATIENT!

YOU'RE--
GOOD,
INEZ!



AMELIA, ALL OF US MUST HELP IN THIS EMERGENCY! I'VE GOT TO STAY TO WATCH MY PATIENT. BUT YOU... YOU'RE NEEDED AT THE DIKE!

NO COLIN... I CAN'T DIS SAND... OR CARRY HEAVY LOADS! YOU GO... AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR PATIENT!



"HE GAVE ME A QUICK, SEARCHING LOOK... AND WAS GONE! I SAT DOWN BESIDE THE SICK BOY... AND WAITED!"

I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOU, LITTLE BOY... IT'S ONLY THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO BE HURT MYSELF! I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE COLIN'S LOVE! I HAVE A RIGHT TO FIGHT FOR WHAT BELONGS TO ME!



"AND SO... AS THE WEARY NIGHT PASSED..."

I THINK HE'S DYING! BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING BUT THE DIKE! THEY MUSTN'T GIVE IT... THEY MUSTN'T!



THE DIKE'S REPAIRED, AMELIA! IT WAS A CLOSE CALL... BUT IT'S OVER NOW! HOW IS THE PATIENT?

I'LL TAKE HIS TEMPERATURE AND PULSE...



WITHOUT A THOUGHT FOR THEMSELVES, COLIN AND INEZ TURNED TO THE SICK BOY! I WANTED TO TAKE COLIN INTO MY ARMS... BUT SOMETHING HELD ME BACK...

YOU... YOU BOTH MUST REST! THESE ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN... BUT YOU SHOULDN'T LET THEM DRIVE YOU TO EXHAUSTION!

IT WAS NO ACCIDENT! SOMEONE DELIBERATELY CAUSED THE BREAK IN THE DIKE... SOMEONE...



"I WATCHED, FEAR CLUTCHING MY HEART, AS I SAW COLIN'S EYES FIXED UPON MY SHOES!"

WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

YOUR SHOES! THERE'S MUD ON THEM... RED MUD... THE KIND OF MUD THAT'S ON MY SHOES! BUT I WAS WORKING ON THE DIKE... YOU WEREN'T EVEN THERE!



OR WERE YOU THERE? TELL ME THE TRUTH! TELL ME! DID YOU KNOCK AWAY THOSE SUPPORTS? DID YOU CAUSE THE BREAK IN THE DIKE?

I... I... OH, COLIN! FORGIVE ME! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING! I... I WAS MAD!

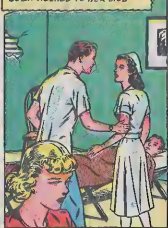


"HE STARED AT ME...AND THE HOT ANGER IN HIS EYES SEARED INTO MY HEART! WE STOOD FACING EACH OTHER FOR WHAT SEEMED AN ETERNITY! AND THEN..."



"HE'S WAKING UP! THE BOY'S CONSCIOUS! THE SERUM'S WORKED!"

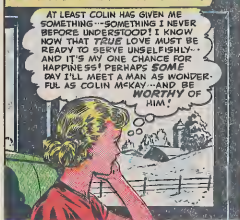
"AGAIN I WAS FORGOTTEN AS COLIN RUSHED TO HER SIDE..."



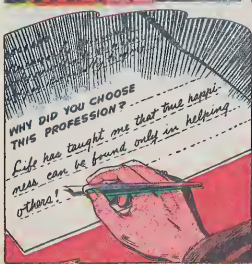
"HE HAD MADE HIS CHOICE...AND THERE WAS NO NEED FOR WORDS TO TELL ME THE BITTER TRUTH! I SLIPPED OUT OF THE HOUSE...IN TIME TO SEE THE WRECKAGE OF ALL MY DREAMS!"



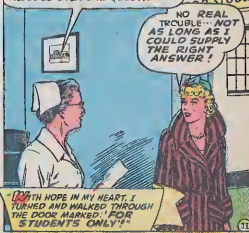
"THIS WAS THE HOMEWARD TRIP I HAD SO LONG AWAITED! NOW I WAS MAKING IT...ALONE!"



"(2) NO THAT'S WHY I APPLIED FOR THE NORTON SCHOOL FOR NURSES...AND WHY BITTER MEMORIES NOW FLOODED OVER ME AT A SIMPLE QUESTION..."



"I NOTICED YOU SEEM TO HAVE HAD SOME TROUBLE OVER ONE QUESTION..."



"WITH HOPE IN MY HEART, I TURNED AND WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR MARKED: 'FOR STUDENTS ONLY!'"

LITTLE BLACK LIES

EVERYTHING had to be perfect, for David was coming to dinner. Jane had met him on vacation a few weeks ago, and now he was coming to meet her family!

"And he lives in Marchvale, only fourteen miles from here, and I never met him before . . . imagine!" she chattered happily, unmindful of what she was saying.

For to Jane, this love was real and terribly important. So many times she had thought, "This is it!"—only to see her romance come to a disappointing and inexplicable end.

But now she was glad, for had it been otherwise, she would not have met and loved David, who should be here any minute. "He's wonderful!" she told her family. "You'll like him! He's so . . . oh, the doorbell!"

It was David, with flowers and candy and a quick little kiss for Jane before she led him into the living room to meet mother, dad and Lucille.

Dinner was happy. It had to be, with Jane darting loving looks at David, who was unashamed enough to blow kisses back to her. And after dinner, Jane shooed him into the sun parlor with the admonition, "Now, don't go away. Dad's running out for some soda pop while mother and I do the dishes. You talk to Lucille."

It was Lucille, however, who did most of the talking. "So you're planning to marry my little sister," she smiled coldly. "Well, that's a lucky thing . . . for Jane!"

David looked at her inquiringly. "What do you mean?" he asked.

"Oh, there's nothing *wrong* with Jane . . . far from it!" Lucille smiled her cold smile again. "In fact, she's been very popular. I should say she's gone out with every single boy in this town . . . but a funny thing happens after a while. They just leave! Like that!" She snapped her fingers. "Now, I'm not saying that Jane's . . . well . . . over-friendly, but . . ."

"But *what*?" Jane stood in the doorway. "They just leave, do they? Well, now I know *why*! You . . . you must have given all of them the impression that I'm . . . that I'm . . ."

Lucille rose. Her eyes were narrowed as she spat out her words. "I've had enough! Enough of my popular little sister, Jane! I was sick and tired of the letters for Jane, the phone calls for Jane, the flowers and dates for Jane—"

"Jealous! You're *jealous*!" Jane could scarcely believe her own words.

"All right, I'm jealous! And *this* would have worked, too, if you hadn't come snooping in!"

"It hasn't worked," David said thoughtfully, putting his arm around Jane's shoulder. "It never will. Don't cry, darling. There's one thing to remember . . . far more important than this!"

"What is it?" Jane sobbed, resting her head on David's shoulder.

He cupped her chin in his hand and looked down tenderly at her tear-stained face. "That I love you," he said.

Love Thy Enemy!



When you love someone, you want to be near him, close to him—ALWAYS! But when he proves faithless, he becomes a **HATED ENEMY!** This is the dilemma which faced **SHIRLEY KENT!** But the man she once adored, and now detested, was her **BUSINESS** partner, and was always on hand to remind her of her broken heart! What was the answer? Was it—

Love Thy Enemy?

"**LOVABLE** UNCLE JOHN HAD BEEN MY GUARDIAN AS FAR BACK AS I COULD REMEMBER, AND I HAD ALWAYS ENJOYED HELPING HIM OUT AROUND THE OFFICE OF HIS LUMBER MILL, DEEP IN THE MICHIGAN NORTH WOODS!

I GREW TO LOVE THE BUSINESS ALMOST AS MUCH AS I LOVED UNCLE JOHN! THEN, ONE DAY..."

I'M GOING TO NEED A NEW SUPERVISOR FOR THE SAWMILL, NOW THAT JUDSON'S GOING EAST! AND I THINK I'VE GOT JUST THE MAN!

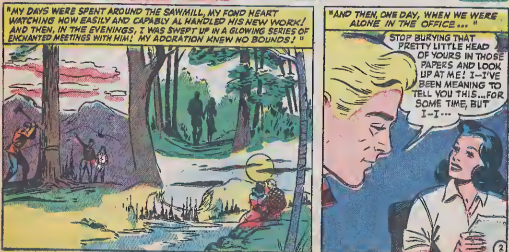
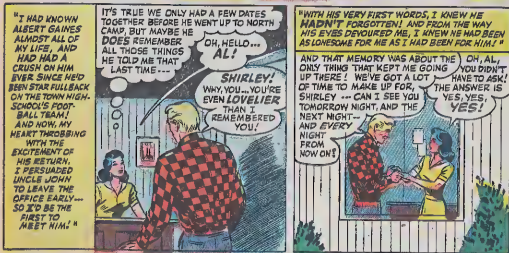
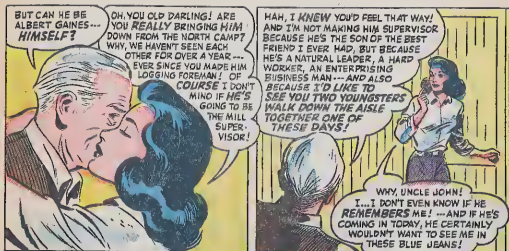
JUST THE MAN? YOU MEAN JUST THE **GIRL!** I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR JUDSON TO MOVE OUT! I KNOW THE BUSINESS INSIDE OUT, THE LOGGERS ALL RESPECT ME — YOU KNOW I'D DO A BANG-UP JOB! PLEASE, UNCLE JOHN... I'VE SET MY HEART ON IT!

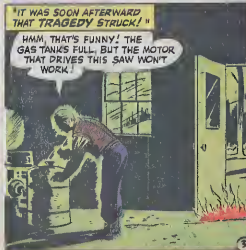
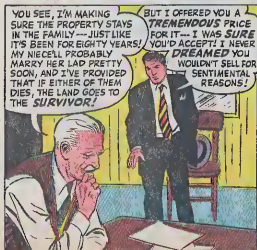
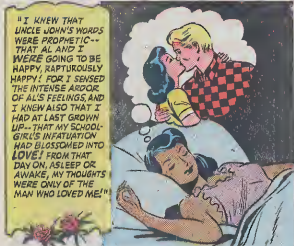
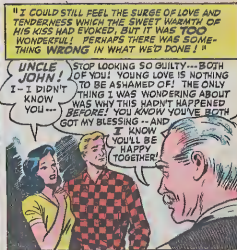
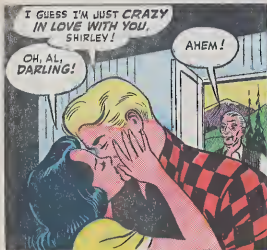


WELL, I MIGHT'VE CONSIDERED YOU, SHIRLEY, IF THIS CHAP WEREN'T PERFECT FOR THE JOB! AND I THINK YOU WON'T MIND SO MUCH WHEN YOU KNOW WHO HE IS! I HAVE A HUNCH YOU'RE GOING TO ENJOY SEEING HIM AROUND HERE!

OH, I DON'T CARE WHO HE IS! HE CAN BE **SUPER-MAN** HIMSELF, FOR ALL I CARE!









"WHEN I HEARD THE NEWS OF UNCLE JOHN'S DEATH, I ALMOST COLLAPSED WITH SHOCK! HE'D BEEN JUST LIKE A FATHER TO ME ALL MY LIFE-- THE ONLY FATHER I'D EVER KNOWN! AND THE ONLY THING THAT SAVED ME FROM A BREAKDOWN WAS THE FACT THAT I STILL HAD AL!"

OH, AL, I...I CAN'T GET IT THROUGH MY HEAD THAT HE'S GONE, THAT I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN!

LOOK, DARLING, YOU'VE GOT TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! HE WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED YOU TO GRIEVE OVER HIM! BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WE CAN DO THAT'LL MAKE HIM HAPPY WHEREVER HE IS...

WILL YOU MARRY ME?



"HIS WORDS SOOTHED MY GRIEF, REPLACED IT WITH AN ALL-CONSUMING LOVE! I KNEW THAT THIS WAS THE WAY UNCLE JOHN WOULD HAVE WANTED IT TO BE, THAT HE WOULD HAVE REJOICED TO SEE HIS PROPHECY ABOUT OUR HAPPINESS COME TRUE!"

OH, YES, SWEETHEART, YES! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I HAVE LEFT NOW... DON'T EVER LEAVE ME!

YOU KNOW I COULDN'T EVER GIVE YOU UP --- ALL I LIVE FOR IS YOUR LOVE!



"IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, I WAS KEPT BUSY WITH THE DETAILS OF THE BUSINESS AND MY PLANS FOR THE WEDDING! AL WAS A TOWER OF STRENGTH FOR ME --- TENDER, KIND --- AND ALWAYS LOVABLE!... THEN, ONE DAY..."

I'VE JUST RETURNED HERE FROM THE COAST, AND I'D LIKE TO EXTEND MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF YOUR UNCLE! BUT I'LL BE VERY FRANK WITH YOU --- I WANTED TO BUY THIS PROPERTY FROM HIM, AND SINCE I LEARNED THAT BOTH OF YOU HAVE INHERITED IT, I'D BE DOING YOU A DISSERVICE IF I DIDN'T MAKE YOU THE SAME GENEROUS OFFER!

I'M SORRY, MR. ROSS! UNCLE JOHN WANTED US TO HAVE IT, AND AS LONG AS THERE'S BOTH OF US, WE'LL NEVER SELL!



"A FEW DAYS LATER..."

COME ON, DARLING --- IT'S AFTER FIVE O'CLOCK! YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH WORK TODAY!

NO, I'LL HAVE TO STAY LATER TONIGHT! I JUST GOT A TELEGRAM FROM A NEW BUYER --- HE'S COMING HERE THIS EVENING, AND I'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIM!



"AN HOUR LATER, THE PHONE RANG..."

LISTEN --- THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE! GET DOWN TO THE MILL AS FAST AS YOU CAN! CLICK!!

BUT WHO IS THIS? AND WHAT'S HAPPENED --- OH! HE'S HUNG UP!



"FEARFUL PICTURES BEGAN FLASHING THROUGH MY MIND --- THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT AT THE OFFICE --- AND AL HAD BEEN THE ONLY ONE THERE THAT LATE! COLD DREAD GRIPPED MY HEART AS I DROVE TOWARDS THE MILL AT TOP SPEED, PRAYING FERVENTLY THAT NOTHING HAD HAPPENED TO MY LOVE!"

"I REACHED THE OFFICE AND THREW OPEN THE DOOR --- THEN I REELED BACK IN STUNNED HORROR! FOR I KNEW THEN THAT SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO MY ROMANCE --- IT HAD BEEN **UTTERLY SHATTERED!**"

AL...
DARLING!

OH...
NO!

"THROUGH MY BLINDING TEARS, I COULD SEE THE WRECKAGE OF MY DREAMS TUMBLING AROUND ME--- BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME, I ALSO SAW HIM FOR WHAT HE WAS! AND I HATED WHAT I SAW!"

YOU DECEITFUL, TREACHEROUS --- OH, YOU... **YOU!**... I **HATE** YOU! TO THINK I BELIEVED ALL YOUR SWEET WORDS---YOUR **LYING** WORDS! SURE, YOU WERE CONVINCING--- YOU'D PROBABLY PRACTICED YOUR LINE ON **DOZENS** OF GIRLS! OH, HOW **GLAD** I AM THAT I FOUND YOU OUT BEFORE I MARRIED YOU!

SHIRLEY!

"THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT IN MY HEART BUT **COLD RAGE** AND AN **IMPLACABLE HATRED** FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE TO ME! HIS **FAITHLESSNESS** WAS UNFORGIVABLE --- AND AN **UNFORGETTABLE INSULT!** I KNEW THAT THE ONLY SOLACE FOR MY BRUISED HEART WOULD BE FOUND IN **HATRED!** NOW I KNEW THE FULL MEANING OF THE WORD, KNEW HOW MUCH **MALICE** THE HEART COULD FEEL!"

DARLING...
LET ME
EXPLAIN!

YOU'RE NOT EVEN MAN ENOUGH TO OWN UP TO WHAT YOU ARE! TRY YOUR SWEET WORDS ON **HER**---AND YOUR **RING**, TOO!

"AFTER A SLEEPLESS, ANGUISHED NIGHT, MY DOOR-BELL RANG EARLY IN THE MORNING..."

WELL, I HOPE YOUR TEMPER IS A BIT BETTER THIS MORNING! MAYBE **NOW** WE CAN DISCUSS THIS IN A SAME, REASONABLE WAY!

I'VE NOTHING TO DISCUSS WITH YOU, MR. GAINES --- UNLESS IT'S ABOUT **BUSINESS!** AND I WISH WE WEREN'T IN BUSINESS TOGETHER, SO THAT I'D NEVER HAVE TO TALK TO YOU

OR SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN!

ALL RIGHT, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT IT, WE'LL KEEP IT **STRICTLY BUSINESS!** AND WHAT'S MORE, WE CAN EVEN **END** OUR BUSINESS DEALINGS--- I'LL **BUY YOU OUT!**

WHAT ---AND LEAVE IT ALL TO YOU? I'LL NEVER MOVE OUT OF THE FIRM BECAUSE OF YOU! I'LL **NEVER** GIVE YOU THAT SATISFACTION! AND I'LL NEVER REST UNTIL I'VE MADE UP FOR UNCLE JOHN'S MISTAKE AND DRIVEN YOU OUT OF THE MILL!

"LATER THAT DAY, AT THE MILL OFFICE..."

HERE, THIS DEAL WILL NET US THREE THOUSAND! AND SINCE WE BOTH HAVE TO SIGN, JUST PUT YOUR SIGNATURE ON THAT CONTRACT!

I'M SORRY, I DON'T APPROVE OF THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT! I **WON'T** SIGN IT!

YOU FOOL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF CONTRACTS? AND IF YOU THINK **THIS** IS THE WAY YOU'LL DRIVE ME OUT OF THE FIRM, YOU'RE AN EVEN BIGGER IDIOT! I'LL LET YOU **RUIN** THE BUSINESS BEFORE I LET YOU FORCE ME OUT!

NEXT DAY...

AND SINCE I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO BUY BOTH OF YOU OUT, MR. GAINES, I'D BE WILLING TO BUY OUT YOUR SHARE ALONE!

NO, THERE'S A PERSONAL REASON WHY I CAN'T SELL OUT, MR. ROSS! AND IF YOU'LL TAKE A FRIENDLY TIP FROM ME, YOU'LL GIVE UP -- BECAUSE SHE WON'T SELL, EITHER!

HELLO... THIS IS THOMAS ROSS AGAIN! I CALLED TO TELL YOU THAT I'VE DECIDED AGAINST BUYING YOUR PROPERTY! AND ACTUALLY, THERE'S NOTHING KEEPING ME IN TOWN -- EXCEPT YOU! COULD YOU HAVE DINNER WITH ME TONIGHT? I PROMISE NOT TO TALK BUSINESS...

WHY... WHY, YES, MR. ROSS! I'D LIKE TO VERY MUCH!

"I'D NEVER EVEN DREAMED THAT THE BUSINESS-LIKE MR. ROSS WAS INTERESTED IN ME! I WAS GLAD TO GO OUT WITH HIM -- HE WAS A LIKEABLE PERSON, AND BESIDES, IT WAS A WAY OF SHOWING ALBERT THAT I WASN'T REALLY HURT, THAT HE WASN'T THE ONLY MAN IN MY LIFE!"

"HE WAS CHARMING AT DINNER, AND VERY ATTENTIVE TOWARDS ME! AND WHEN HE TOOK ME DANCING AFTERWARDS, I WAS DELIGHTED WITH HIS GRACE AND HIS POLISHED URBANITY! COMPARED WITH HIM, ALBERT GAINES WAS MERELY A HULKING LOGGER!"

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE LOVELY, SHIRLEY! WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR ME TO GO BACK TO THE COAST, I KNEW WHY I'D BEEN POSTPONING IT! I COULDN'T LEAVE WITHOUT GETTING TO KNOW SOMEONE AS RAVISHING AS YOU!

WHY... WHY, THANK YOU -- TOM!

"I BEGAN SPENDING MORE AND MORE TIME WITH TOM -- LIKING HIM MORE AND MORE! AND SURELY SUCH A SUBSTANTIAL MAN COULD BE DEPENDED ON TO BE SINCERE IN HIS AFFECTIONS! KNOWING THAT I WOULD NEVER DOUBT HIS LOVE, I WONDERED -- WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO BE MARRIED TO SOMEONE LIKE TOM?"



"THEN, ONE NIGHT..."

SHIRLEY, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN FIGHTING IN MYSELF -- AND I CAN'T FIGHT IT ANYMORE! I'VE FELT DRAWN TO YOU FROM THE MOMENT I SAW YOU! BUT IT WAS ONLY WHEN I WATCHED YOUR WORRIES ABOUT THE MILL MAKING YOU HARD AND BITTER THAT I REALIZED I LOVED YOU -- AND WANTED YOU AS SWEET AS YOU NATURALLY ARE --

---AS MY WIFE!

"I LOOKED INTO HIS EYES -- SAW ONLY LOVE AND SINCERITY THERE! MY HEART QUICKENED WITH FAST-BEATING TENDERNESS, FOR HERE WAS A NEW, A LASTING ROMANCE!"

OH, TOM, DEAREST, OF COURSE I'LL MARRY YOU! YOU'VE MADE ME THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD TONIGHT!

"HIS LIPS WERE HARD AND SEARCHING! YES, HE WANTED AND NEEDED ME! I KNEW AT LEAST THAT I HAD FOUND THE ONE MAN IN THE WORLD WHOSE LOVE I COULD BE SURE OF -- WHOM I COULD LOVE WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING HURT!"



"DAYS OF SHEER ECSTASY FOLLOWED --- DAYS REPLET WITH PLANS FOR THE WEDDING WHICH TOM AND I HAD DECIDED TO HOLD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! THERE WAS BUT ONE BLACK CLOUD ON MY HORIZON --- THE MILL OFFICE --- AND HAVING TO BE NEAR THE ONE MAN IN THE WORLD WHOM I LOATHED!"

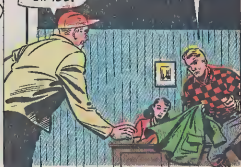
"I'VE HEARD RUMORS THAT YOU'VE FOUND A NEW LOVE! I GUESS SOME MEN WILL SETTLE FOR ANYTHING!"

WELL, YOU OUGHT TO KNOW --- WITH A ROMANCE RECORD LIKE YOURS!



MR. GAINES! MR. GAINES! THERE'S A STRIKE BREWING UP AT NORTH CAMP! YOU'D BETTER GET UP THERE FAST ... BEFORE ALL THE MEN WALK OUT ON YOU!

STRIKE, EH? OKAY, MIKE --- I'LL GET UP THERE AND SEE WHAT'S WRONG!



"THE OFFICE WAS STRANGELY EMPTY AFTER AL LEFT! I KEPT TELLING MYSELF I HOPED HE'D NEVER COME BACK FROM THE WOODS --- BUT AN ODD FEELING OF LONELINESS PERSISTED! I WELCOMED TOM'S INVITATION TO LUNCH ---"

I HOPE THE STRIKE DOESN'T COME OFF --- BUT ANYWAY, IT'LL BE A LATER ALL YOU ARE HALF-PLEASURE NOT HAVING ALBERT GAINES IN MY HAIR FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS!

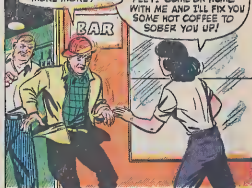
WELL, DARLING, I THINK I'D BETTER GET UP THERE MYSELF! GOT TO LOOK AFTER YOUR INTERESTS! AND WHO COULD DO THAT BETTER THAN YOUR HUSBAND-TO-BE? --- I'LL TRY TO GET BACK AS SOON AS I CAN!



"I WORKED LATE THAT NIGHT, FINISHING UP SOME WORK ... BUT OH MY WAY HOME ..."

WHADDAYA MEAN, KICKIN' ME OUTTA BAR? GOT PLENNY MORE MONEY ---

OH, MIKE, YOU CAN'T EVEN STAND ON YOUR FEET! COME ON HOME WITH ME AND I'LL FIX YOU SOME HOT COFFEE TO SOBER YOU UP!



THAT YOU, MISS SHIRLEY? FUNNY YOU HELPIN' ME, 'CAUSE YOU OUGHTA BE HELPIN' HIM! BUT TOO LATE --- YOU'LL NEVER SEE 'IM AGAIN! 'CAUSE NOW THAT HE'S GOIN' UP T' NORTH CAMP, A LI'L ACCIDENT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO 'IM IN MORNIN'!

MIKE!

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO MR. ROSS? TELL ME, QUICK!



"MIKE'S WORDS FILLED MY HEART WITH A GRIPPING ANXIETY, A COLD FEAR! IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO TOM, I KNEW I WOULDN'T WANT TO LIVE! AND THEN, JUST WHEN I VITALLY NEEDED MORE INFORMATION, MIKE'S BODY SAGGED ---"

HE'S PASSED OUT! AND THE REASON HE HAD THE MONEY FOR ALL THAT LIQUOR IS THAT HE WAS PROBABLY PAID OFF FOR HIS PART IN THE PLOT! --- I MUST GET OUT TO NORTH CAMP --- AND BEFORE MORNING! I MUST SAVE TOM!



"I KNEW THERE WAS ONLY ONE MAN WHO WOULD WANT TO HURT TOM! I KNEW THAT ALBERT GAINES HATED ME SO MUCH THAT HE WAS TRYING TO STRIKE BACK AT ME — BY KILLING THE MAN I LOVED! DESPERATE WITH FEAR, I DROVE AT BREAKNECK SPEED ALL NIGHT!"

"I ARRIVED AT NORTH CAMP JUST AFTER DAWN — PRAYING THAT I WAS STILL IN TIME!"

QUICK — WHERE'S MR. ROSS?

WHY, MR. GAINES TOOK HIM UP TO INSPECT THE LOGGING RAILROAD — JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO!

"FRANTICALLY, I SPEED UP THE STEEP SLOPE LEADING TO THE RAILROAD! AS I GOT TO IT, MY HEART FROZE IN TERROR AT WHAT I SAW!"

IT'S A RUNAWAY TRAIN! AND — AND THERE'S A MAN'S BODY ON TOP OF IT!

OH, TOM, TOM! I'M TOO LATE!

THE TRAIN'S HEADING FOR THAT SHARP CURVE AT THE FOOT OF THIS HILL! IT'LL NEVER MAKE IT — AND IF HE'S STILL ALIVE, HE'LL BE KILLED WHEN THE TRAIN CRASHES INTO THAT GORGE!

I — I'LL RACE IT TO THE CURVE!

"I HEARD THE TRAIN SCREAMING CLOSER BEHIND ME, AND AS I TURNED AROUND TO SEE, THERE WAS A MOMENT OF FRIGHTFUL SHOCK!"

IT... IT'S NOT TOM — IT'S AL! I... I CAN'T LET HIM DIE!

"IN THAT MOMENT OF CRISIS, MY MIND SUDDENLY BECAME CRYSTAL- CLEAR! I REALIZED THAT AL WAS NOT THE PLOTTER, BUT THE ONE PLOTTED AGAINST — THAT I STILL LOVED HIM WITH ALL MY HEART — THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE HIM! WITH A FIERCE TWIST OF THE WHEEL, I STEERED MY CAR DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE RUNAWAY TRAIN!"

HE — HE'S RIGHT IN THE FRONT! IF I CAN CRASH MY CAR INTO THE TRAIN, IT MIGHT STOP SUDDENLY ENOUGH! THE — THE CRASH MAY DO IT! HIS OWN MOMENTUM WILL SEND HIM FLYING OFF TO THE SIDE OF THE TRACKS! IT...

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I CAN'T SAVE MYSELF!

CRASH!

"I FLUNG MYSELF CLEAR BY A MERE MATTER OF INCHES! THEN, BRUISED AND SCRATCHED, I PAINFULLY MADE MY WAY TO WHERE I HAD SEEN AL LAGO AMONG SOME BUSHES! I PRAYED THAT THEY HAD SOFTENED HIS FALL, THAT MY LOVE STILL LIVED!"

AL, AL, DARLING!
OH, DEAREST...
I LOVE YOU
SO!



"HIS EYES OPENED SLOWLY, AND I COULD SEE THEM STRUGGLING TO RECOGNIZE ME! AND THEN, TO MY HORROR, HIS EYES FILLED WITH A FIERCE RAGE!"

Y... YOU'RE HERE, TOO! YOU AND ROSS BL... WANTED TO GET RID OF ME, EH? I KNEW YOU HATED ME, BUT I NEVER DREAMED YOU BOTH WANTED MY HALF OF THE BUSINESS ENOUGH TO TRY TO KILL ME! --PRETTY CLEVER OF ROSS TO GET ME UP HERE WITH A RUSE ABOUT A PHONY STRIKE AND THEN LURE ME OUT TO THE LOGGING RAILROAD WHERE HE COULD MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT!



WAS -- WAS TOM BEHIND ALL THIS? OH... TO THINK I ALMOST MARRIED A... A MURDERER! I... I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THROUGH HIM FROM THE BEGINNING!

A VERY PRETTY ACT, BUT I SEE THROUGH YOU! THE FACT THAT YOU'RE UP HERE PROVES YOU WERE IN ON THE PLOT WITH HIM! I HAD NO IDEA ANYTHING LIKE THAT WAS AFOOT --- UNTIL I SAW ROSS SWINGING THAT GUN BUTT DOWN ON MY HEAD! THAT'S THE LAST THING I CAN REMEMBER --- UNTIL I WOKE UP HERE!



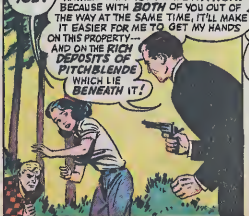
YOU -- YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, AL! LOOK --- I'LL NOTIFY THE POLICE --- I'LL SPEND EVERY CENT I'VE GOT TO SEE THAT HE'S PROSECUTED ---

VERY FICKLE OF YOU, MY DEAR, TO TURN AGAINST ME THAT WAY! BUT I'M AFRAID THE POLICE WILL NEVER HEAR YOUR TOUCHING STORY!



TOM!
YOU!

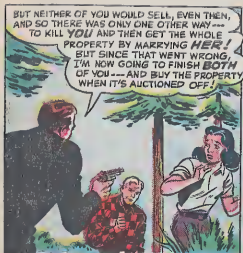
YOU WOULD COME ALONG AND SPOIL MY LITTLE GAME! -- BUT I RATHER THINK YOU DID ME A FAVOR! BECAUSE WITH BOTH OF YOU OUT OF THE WAY AT THE SAME TIME, IT'LL MAKE IT EASIER FOR ME TO GET MY HANDS ON THIS PROPERTY --- AND ON THE RICH DEPOSITS OF PITCHBLENDE WHICH LIE BENEATH IT!



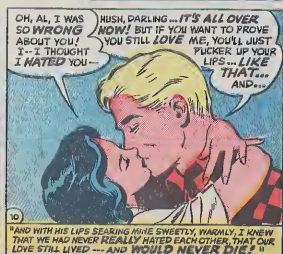
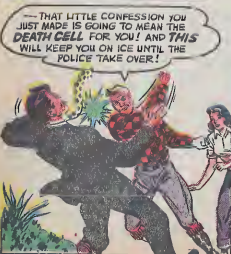
YOU SEE, AFTER I LEARNED ABOUT THE PITCHBLENDE AND YOUR UNCLE WOULDN'T SELL, I ARRANGED FOR THAT LITTLE ACCIDENT TO HAPPEN TO HIM! BUT WHEN THE TWO OF YOU WOULDN'T SELL, I TRIED TO SET YOU AGAINST EACH OTHER -- BY FRAMING THE EPISODE OF THE GIRL YOU FOUND IN HIS ARMS! SHE HAD ORDERS TO GRAB AND KISS HIM JUST AS YOU ENTERED!

"HIS WORDS HIT HOME LIKE AGONIZING ARROWS! I HAD THOUGHT AL UNFAITHFUL --- BUT IT WAS I WHO HAD BEEN FALSE TO OUR LOVE BY DOUBTING HIM! MY LACK OF FAITH HAD RUINED BOTH OUR LIVES --- AND WAS NOW ABOUT TO END THEM!"





"I WATCHED THEM RISE, JOIN IN A SAVAGE BATTLE! MY HEART SWELLED WITH PRIDE AT AL'S FIERCE COURAGE! WEAKENED, HALF DAZED, HE WAS FIGHTING FURIOUSLY-- **FOR ME!** 'OH, GOD, LET HIM WIN,' I PRAYED! 'LET HIM STILL WANT ME--LET HIM STILL LOVE ME AS HE DID BEFORE!'"

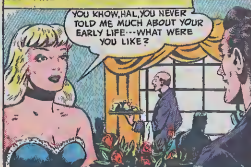


"AND WITH HIS LIPS SEARING MINE SWEETLY, YEARMLY, I KNEW THAT WE HAD NEVER REALLY HATED EACH OTHER, THAT OUR LOVE STILL LIVED --- AND WOULD NEVER DIE!"

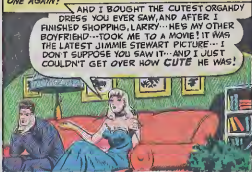
DATING

DO'S *and* DON'T'S

DO SHOW AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN YOUR DATE... GET HIM STARTED TALKING ABOUT HIMSELF! IF YOU'RE A SYMPATHETIC LISTENER, YOU FLATTER HIS MASCULINE EGO... AND CAPTURE HIS HEART!



DON'T PRATTLE ABOUT YOURSELF... YOU'LL BORE HIM! AND IF YOU START BOASTING ABOUT YOUR OTHER BOYFRIENDS, YOU CAN BE SURE YOU'LL NEVER SEE THIS ONE AGAIN!



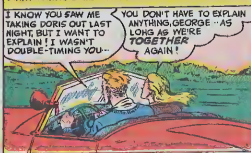
DO SHOW SOME INTEREST IN THE OTHER BOYS YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'RE AT A PARTY! EVEN WHEN YOU'RE ENGAGED, THERE'S NO REASON TO START IGNORING COMPLETELY ALL THE BOYS YOU'VE EVER KNOWN! IF YOU PAY ATTENTION ONLY TO YOUR ESCORT, HE'LL THINK YOU WERE NEVER POPULAR WITH ANY OF THE OTHERS!



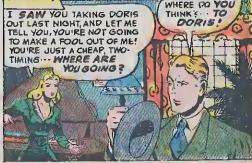
DON'T FLIRT WITH OTHER MEN WHEN YOU'RE OUT ON A DATE! YOUR ANTAGONIZED ESCORT WILL SPREAD THE WORD, AND YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF SITTING SOME NIGHTS, ALONE!



DO KEEP A FIRM GRIP ON YOUR EMOTIONS IF YOUR BOYFRIEND STARTS TAKING OTHER GIRLS OUT! IF YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH HIM, BEGIN ALL OVER AGAIN AS IF YOU HAD JUST MET HIM... AND CHARM HIM AWAY! IF YOU STILL FIND YOURSELF PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL START DATING SOME OF THE OTHER BOYS YOU LIKE!



DON'T PUT ON A JEALOUS SCENE! EVEN IF THAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS TAKEN YOUR PLACE IN HIS HEART, JUST REMEMBER THAT JEALOUSY ALWAYS REPELS MEN! IF YOU WANT TO WIN HIM BACK, DON'T BE JEALOUS!



**Send
SECRET
SIGNALS**

With the SENSATIONAL
TRIGGER-LITE GUN!
PAT. PEND.
TRADE MARK REG.

IS IT A GUN? IS IT A FLASHLIGHT?
It's BOTH!

A realistic gun until you pull the trigger ... and a brilliant beam of light shoots out! Release the trigger, and **PRESTO!** The light snaps out!

HERE'S WHAT YOU GET!

1. TRIGGER-LITE GUN, with...
2. BULLET CARTRIDGE
3. UNBREAKABLE PLASTIC LENS (Military type)
4. LONG-LIFE, HIGH-GLOW BULB
5. HEAVY, NICKEL-STEEL CASE
6. DEEP-GROOVED, NON-SLIP GRIP
7. TWO POWERFUL BATTERIES

---SWELL FOR---

- SIGNALING ON NIGHT HIKES!
- FINDING OBJECTS IN THE DARK!
- EVERY FLASHLIGHT USE!
- GAMES!
- ...and many other things
- that YOU can think of!



BULLET CARTRIDGE---BATTERIES LOAD IN HERE!

100% SAFE...
and FUN GALORE!



The actual size of the TRIGGER-LITE gun is 6 inches long.



\$1.00! JUST SLIP A DOLLAR BILL, OR MONEY ORDER, OR COINS INTO AN ENVELOPE, TOGETHER WITH THE COUPON AT THE RIGHT, PROPERLY FILLED OUT! SEND AT ONCE FOR YOUR OWN

"TRIGGER-LITE" SECRET SIGNAL GUN

WALMAN SALES CO. 45 WEST 45TH ST., N.Y.C. 19, N.Y.

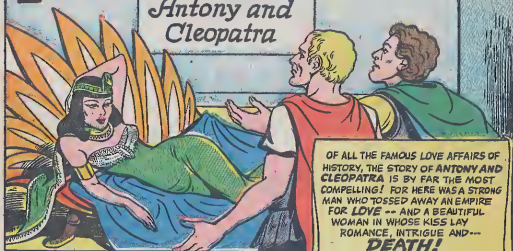
WALMAN SALES CO.,
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Please send me "TRIGGER-LITE" SIGNALING GUNS. Enclosed you will find cash or money order.

Name.....
Address.....
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Famous Love Affairs

Antony and Cleopatra



OF ALL THE FAMOUS LOVE AFFAIRS OF HISTORY, THE STORY OF ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA IS BY FAR THE MOST COMPELLING! FOR HERE WAS A STRONG MAN WHO TOSSED AWAY AN EMPIRE FOR LOVE -- AND A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN WHOSE KISS LAY ROMANCE, INTRIGUE AND--
DEATH!

CLEOPATRA SUCCEEDED TO THE THRONE OF EGYPT AT THE AGE OF SEVENTEEN, BUT WAS IMMEDIATELY BESET BY HER ENEMIES WHO TRIED TO OVERTHROW HER REIGN! AND WHEN JULIUS CAESAR MARCHED INTO ALEXANDRIA WITH A CONQUERING ARMY, CLEOPATRA SAW HER BIG CHANCE!

SO THAT IS THE MIGHTY ROMAN! AH, IF I COULD BUT GAIN HIS FAVOR, I COULD USE HIS TROOPS TO DESTROY MY FOES!



BUT CAESAR, BUSY WITH THE AFFAIRS OF EMPIRE, REFUSED TO SEE CLEOPATRA! AND SO...

O MIGHTY CAESAR! BE GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO ACCEPT THIS PRECIOUS GIFT FROM THY HUMBLE SLAVE!

AH, A PRECIOUS WORK OF ART? UNWRAP IT!



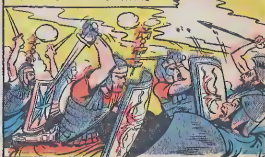
BUT WHEN THE STRAW MATTING WAS REMOVED, A RADIANT VISION STOOD FORTH, IRRESISTIBLY BEAUTIFUL! CAESAR WAS INSTANTLY CAPTIVATED!

DOES THE MIGHTY CAESAR OBJECT IF THE PRECIOUS WORK OF ART IS ALIVE?

BY THE GREAT GOD JUPITER, THOU ART FAIRER THAN EVEN THE INCOMPARABLE VENUS! WHAT DOST THOU WISH OF ME?



FASCINATED BY CLEOPATRA'S RAVISHING BEAUTY, CAESAR LISTENED TO HER REQUEST, AND SOON HIS LEGIONNAIRES WERE SLAYING THE FORCES OF HER ENEMIES! BUT THIS WAS NOT TO BE THE ONLY TIME THAT BLOOD WAS TO BE SHED IN A BATTLE OVER CLEOPATRA!



AFTER CAESAR'S ASSASSINATION, THE ROMAN EMPIRE WAS SPLIT BETWEEN THE WARRING FORCES OF MARK ANTONY AND OCTAVIAN -- AND CLEOPATRA WAS CAUGHT BETWEEN THE TWO FACTIONS!

O BLESSED QUEEN OF EGYPT, MARK ANTONY HAS SENT WORD DEMANDING TO KNOW WHETHER YOU WILL SUPPORT HIM IN HIS WAR -- OR WHETHER HE SHOULD CONSIDER YOU HIS ENEMY!

THIS MARK ANTONY IS BOLO IN HIS OEMANDS --- HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY EMERGE VICTORIOUS! I WILL VOYAGE TO HIS CAMP IN ASIA MINOR --- WHEN HE SUCCEUMBS TO MY CHARMS, HE WILL BE EVEN MORE USEFUL TO ME THAN CAESAR WAS!



AS CLEOPATRA NEARED THE ROMAN CAMP, SHE STUNNED THE EYES OF THE LEGIONS WITH HER BEAUTY AND THE SPLENDOR OF HER GOLDEN BARGE!

TRULY SHE MUST BE A GODDESS- VENUS, OR PERHAPS APHROOITE!

NOW THAT I HAVE SEEN SUCH A HEAVENLY VISION, I WOULD BE CONTENT TO DIE!



UPON HER ARRIVAL, CLEOPATRA SENT ANTONY AN INVITATION TO A SUMPTUOUS BANQUET, AND THE MAGNIFICENCE AND LUXURY OF HIS RECEPTION DAZZLED THE MAN WHO FOR SO LONG HAD KNOWN ONLY A ROUGH SOLDIER'S LIFE!

TRULY, THOU MUST BE A WONOROUS QUEEN --- MINE EYES ARE ASTOUNDED AT THE SPLENDOR OF THY LUXURY!

AND IS NOT ANTONY ALSO ASTOUNDED AT THE BEAUTY OF THIS WONDRONS QUEEN?



CLEOPATRA ... MY HEART IS THINE!



ANTONY GAVE HIMSELF UP TO THE CHARMS OF THIS FABULOUS WOMAN, AND REMAINED WITH HER IN ALEXANDRIA FOR TEN YEARS, SUPPORTING HER ON HER THRONE WITH HIS ARMY! AT NIGHT, THE PAIR WOULD DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS SERVANTS AND WANDER ABOUT THE SLUMS OF THE CITY ... ALL BECAUSE OF CLEOPATRA'S WISHES!

MARK, LOOK! THIEVES ARE LYING IN WAIT IN THOSE SHAOOWS!

DO NOT FEAR, O LOVE OF MY LIFE! THEY DO NOT KNOW THEY HAVE TO RECKON WITH MARK ANTONY!



LITTLE DID THE BRAVE ANTONY KNOW THAT THE WILFUL, CAPRICIOUS QUEEN WAS SEEKING THE THRILL OF HAVING HIM RISK HIS LIFE FOR HER!



THEN CAME THE FINAL CAMPAIGN WITH OCTAVIAN!
EITHER ANTONY OR HIS RIVAL MUST RULE
THE WORLD --- AND CLEOPATRA HAD
HITCHED HER CHARIOT TO ANTONY'S STAR!

I HAVE RAISED A HUNDRED
AND TWELVE THOUSAND TROOPS
--WE CANNOT BE DEFEATED!

NAY, AND WITH MY
SIXTY SHIPS --AND
MY LOVE -- YOU
YOURSELF WILL BE THE
EQUAL OF TENS OF
THOUSANDS!



BUT AT THE CRISIS OF THE BATTLE OF ACTIUM,
WITH OCTAVIAN'S FORCES APPARENTLY
WINNING, CLEOPATRA PREMATURELY CONCLUDED
THAT THE BATTLE WAS LOST!

GIVE THE SIGNAL FOR RETREAT! OCTAVIAN'S
SHIPS ARE FAR TOO NUMEROUS ---
WE ARE DEFEATED!



WHEN ANTONY HEARD THE NEWS ...

WHAT? CLEOPATRA HAS PUT OUT TO SEA?
QUICK, ABANDON THE FLEET AND START IN
PURSUIT OF HER! THIS IS A FAST SHIP ---
AND I WOULD FAR RATHER LOSE MY
ARMY THAN LOSE **HER!**



ANTONY'S TROOPS, FINDING THAT THEIR
COMMANDER HAD ABANDONED THEM,
SURRENDERED -- EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD NOT BEEN
DEFEATED! WHILE, BACK IN ALEXANDRIA, CLEO-
PATRA'S PROUD SPIRIT WILTED UNDER THE FEAR
THAT OCTAVIAN MIGHT SEIZE HER, AND CARRY HER
OFF TO ROME AS A PRISONER, IN CHAINS!

LEAVE ME HERE IN THIS LOCKED VAULT OF
THE ROYAL SEPULCHRE, AND SEND FORTH
WORD THAT CLEOPATRA, QUEEN OF EGYPT,
HAS DIED! BY MEANS OF THIS RUSE, OCTAVIAN
WILL NOT MISTAKE ME!



BUT WHEN ANTONY HEARD THE REPORT
THAT SHE WAS DEAD, HE KNEW THERE WAS
NOTHING LEFT IN LIFE FOR HIM -- WITH HIS
EMPIRE, HIS ARMY, AND HIS LOVE GONE
FROM THE WORLD!

'TIS BETTER TO DIE THIS --AND TO JOIN
HER IN ENDLESS SLEEP!



IN HIS LAST MOMENTS, ANTONY WAS CARRIED INTO
THE PRESENCE OF THE WOMAN FOR WHOM HE HAD
GIVEN ALL, AND HE DIED WITH HER
ARMS AROUND HIM! AND THEN ...

ANTONY, ANTONY ... WITHOUT YOUR STRENGTH AND
YOUR LOVE, MY QUEENDOM AND MY LIFE MEAN NOTHING!
WHEN I DRINK THIS POISONED DRAUGHT, OURS WILL BE
A **DEATHLESS LOVE -- INSTEAD OF A LOVELESS DEATH!**



you're
the most
desirable
girl in his
life in this
irresistible
dress



LOVE

Romaine

LURE

only \$6.98

Such beguiling styling in sheer weight Romaine rayon crepe that shows up your figure to enticing advantage. Alluring accents of lavish lace spice those sweet cap sleeves, and ripple 'round the flirting peplum that compliments your ring-sized waist. There's endless intrigue in that glamorous "nude-lack" neckline of filmy black marquisette, and in your exciting curves molded by the 20" back zipper. ROMAINE LOVE-LURE gives you so much sarcery... for such a little price! Only \$6.98

GUARANTEE

Complete satisfaction guaranteed. Keep your purchase a full 10 days. If you're not 100% thrilled, return it and your full purchase price will be refunded immediately.

Wilco Fashions

Colors: Black, Beige, Aqua, Dusty Rose with alluring black lace.

Junior Sizes: 9 to 17

Misses Sizes: 12 to 20

SEND NO MONEY—ORDER ON APPROVAL

WILCO FASHIONS, Dept. L-121K, 45 East 37th Street, New York 18, N. Y.
Please send me the ROMAINE LOVE-LURE at \$6.98

- ☐ Ship C.O.D. I will pay postage.
☐ I enclose \$6.98. You pay postage.

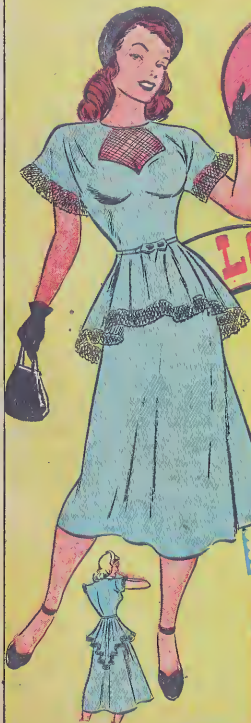
SIZE 1st COLOR CHOICE 2nd COLOR CHOICE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

If not your heart's desire return in 10 days for full purchase price refund



SMALL BUST WOMEN

Special Design "Up-And-Out" Bra
Gives You A Fuller, Alluring Bustline
Instantly

COLORS:

- NUDE
- WHITE
- BLACK
- BLUE

NO PADS! NO ARTIFICIAL BUST BUILDUP NEEDED

Self conscious about your flat looking bustline? Figure Beauty starts with a glamorous bustline. The sensational "Up-And-Out" Bra has an exclusive secret patent pend. feature that tends to lift and cup flat, unshapely, small busts into a FULLER, WELL-ROUNDED, EXCITING BUSTLINE like magic instantly.

One of Our Many Satisfied Customers Below Says:

"... It's amazing how its special feature gives my bustline real glamour."

—Miss Doris Harris, Wichita, Kansas



BEFORE Miss Harris wore the "Up-and-Out" Bra, she was flat, unshapely, and shy.



AFTER she wore the "Up-and-Out" Bra, her attractive bustline gave her poise, confidence.

Now Wear All Dresses, Blouses, Sweaters, etc. (No matter how form fitting) With Bustline Confidence!

With the "Up-And-Out" Bra underneath, all your clothes will display the sweater girl, feminine curves you desire and require to look attractive. Firm elastic back and easy to adjust shoulder straps. Beautiful fabric — easy to wash. Colors: Nude, White, Black. Sizes: 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38. Only \$2.49. Mail Coupon Now.

SEND NO MONEY!

FREE 10 DAY TRIAL COUPON

Tested Sales, Dept. MR-45B12
20 Vesey Street, New York 7, N. Y.



SIZES:

28

to

38

Profile View Of Hidden Feature in Bra

which does wonders for your individual bust problem.



Below are some types who can be helped.

Special patent pending bust molding feature an inside of bra lifts, supports and cups your busts. No Matter Whether They Are Small, Flat or Sagging, into Fuller, Well-Rounded "Up and Out" curves like magic instantly!



Tested Sales, Dept. MR-45B-12

20 Vesey Street, New York 7, N. Y.

Rush to me my "Up-And-Out" Bra in plain wrapper in size and color checked below. I will pay postman on delivery \$2.49 plus postage. If not delighted in 10 days, I will return merchandise for my money back.

Size _____ Color _____ How Many _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zone, State _____

Check here if you wish to save postage by enclosing \$2.49 with coupon. Same Money Back Guarantee.

**Our Biggest
Bulb Bargain**



AMAZING GET ACQUAINTED...

TULIP OFFER

OUR FAMOUS HARDY PLANTING STOCK

**100
BULBS
for \$1.69**

Dozens of brilliant flaming colors in this Rainbow Mix Assortment . . . Darwin, Triumph, Breeder, and Cottage Tulips for remarkable low cost of less than 2c per bulb. Our prize selection of famous young especially selected strain and smaller because they are first and second year bulbs—1½" to 2¼" in circumference. Satisfaction guaranteed or money back.

Selected by Tulip experts who guarantee replacement of any bulb not developing to your satisfaction.

. . . Will fill your garden with blazing color ranging from delicate pastel shades to bold flaming hues, MAIL THE COUPON TODAY!

ORDER NOW!

Send No Money!

Send no money to get this marvelous tulip bulb bargain! Just check which offers you desire and rush order today! Your tulip bulb assortment with extra Dutch Iris Bulbs will be sent you immediately in plenty of time for fall planting. When postman brings your package just pay amount as checked in coupon plus C.O.D. postage. If you remit with order, we'll pay postage. If you don't feel that you have hit the bargain jackpot of the garden world, return the bulbs and receive your money back.

EXTRA

**12 DUTCH
IRIS BULBS**

Yes, as your gift for ordering this astounding tulip assortment . . . we will send you 12 genuine first-year Dutch Iris Bulbs extra and without additional cost. These gorgeous irises will give your garden new purples and blues that will make it the envy of your neighbors. All solid diamond-like bulbs . . . extra just for mailing your tulip order coupon any.

Other Delightful Flower Bargains!

Chrysanthemum New **CURFEW**
MUNA Young stems, these which will fill your garden with spectacular heights. (Phenol produces over 1000 blooms) Assorted colors. 10 plants and 3 Ranunculus Bulbs extra. **\$1.69**

Imported Holland Crocus Bulbs

Choose Famous Varieties of selected bulbs direct from Holland! These crocuses, flowering early, will be the first to bloom next spring in lovely white, yellow, blue and striped blossoms. Grow indoors—in a lawn where they flower for years without replanting. 3 Ranunculus Bulbs extra. 100 BULBS **\$1.94**

SPECIAL OFFER COUPON

Michigan Bulb Company, Dept. RR-1515
Grand Rapids 2, Michigan

Send order checked below. I will pay postman on arrival of package in time for fall planting, plus postage, no guarantee that I may return if not satisfied and get full refund.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100 Tulip Bulbs averaging 1½" circumference with 12 Dutch Iris Bulbs | \$1.69 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100 Grower's Choice Tulip Bulbs averaging 2¼" circumference with 12 Dutch Iris Bulbs | \$1.98 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100 Exhibition Tulip Bulbs averaging 3" circumference with 12 Dutch Iris Bulbs | \$2.98 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50 IMPORTED Holland Tulip Bulbs averaging 2½" circumference | \$2.98 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100 IMPORTED Holland Crocus Bulbs with 3 Ranunculus | \$1.94 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 King Alfred Daffodil Bulbs with 3 Ranunculus Bulbs extra | \$1.49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 IMPORTED Holland Dutch Hyacinths averaging 2½" circumference | \$1.98 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Chrysanthemum Plants with 3 Ranunculus Bulbs extra | \$1.69 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 55 Perennials—11 popular varieties | \$1.94 |

☐ Send C.O.D. (I pay postage)

☐ Remittance enclosed (Michigan Bulb pays postage)

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ADDRESS.....

CITY.....

ZONE..... STATE.....

MICHIGAN BULB CO., Dept. RR-1515 GRAND RAPIDS 2, MICH.